# Ershad seeks a change of trial court

The trial of deposed President Hussain Muhammad Er shad in the Japanese boat purchase case was adjourned yesterday to allow the former ruler's defence lawyers to move a petition in the High Court seeking to transfer the case, reports BSS

Just as the Special Judge's court chaired by Divisional Sessions Judge Ansaruddin Sikder was to take up proceedings, Yusuf Hossain Humayun. Ershad's defence counsel, submitted a prayer seeking time to file an application in the High Curt to transfer the case from this court.

Humayun, in his prayer, alleged that certain remarks by judge Sikder in a previous case in which Ershad was sentenced and convicted, have created an apprehension in the mind of his client about getting justice in the present case. The defence lawyer further alleged that despite repeated appeals, his client was. deprived of discussions with the counsels, as allowed under

After going through the defence prayer, judge Sikder sought comments from Ershad on the allegations made by Humayun in the petition. Ershad smilingly admitted receiving enough time and opportunities provided by the court to carry on with the case. He was also heard urging Humayun to drop that portion of the prayer relating to not getting time and adequate opportunities for consultation. When asked by the judge to

comment on the contents of the defence prayer, public prosecutor Ashrafuddin Ahmed said the allegations were "false and baseless." Judge Sikder observed that

if the accused persons have no faith in the court, there was no

point in carrying on with the trial. He, however, stated that the defence should have submitted its present prayer on the previous date of the trial on May 14. No such cause had arisen yesterday to justify the petition and the defence lawyers were only trying to kill time. Sikder commented. He said if they had any real complaint, they could have raised the issue much earlier.

Counsel Humayun said the defence had the right to pray for a transfer of courts at any time it deems appropriate.

Earlier A K M Hossain. Deputy Commissioner of Panchagarh appeared in the court to make his deposition which remained incomplete. Hossain, who is the prosecution witness-1, had made partial deposition on May 14.

Before calling it a day, judge Ansaruddin Sikder asked Yusuf Hosain Humayun to present before him by next Saturday the order of the High Court regarding the defence petition seeking transfer of the case from this court.

On the previous date of the trial, i.e., May 14, Ershad's lawyers boycotted the court because judge Sikder did not entertain their prayer for an adjournment of the proceedings on some untenable

Ershad and a Japanese national have been indicted in this case which relates to the acceptance of the second lowest bidder by violating set rules in the purchase of relief boats under a Japanese grant which caused the state to sustain a loss amounting to about Taka

Ashrafuddin Ahmed was assisted by Masud Ahmed Taluk der and Kazi Golam Faruque.

Nitai Roy Chowdhury assisted Yusuf Humayun.

Dhanmondi lake From Page 1 Col 7

plants, at least four milligram dissolved axygen is required for every litre of water. For angling, the standard of

dissolved oxygen is four milligram per litre while for other recreational activities, it is five milligram per litre. DOE officials pointed out. They said that the sewage

line near Dhanmondi Road-32 was disposing storm water coupled with solid wastes into the lake.

The DOE report identified man-made waste dumping, rotting of leaves and plants and disposal of storm water to be the main reasons for water pollution in the Dhanmondi

"Mud, debris, and all kinds of rubbish are now being dumped into the lake," said one DOE official. "In future, you will not even dip your finger into the Dhanmondi lake, let alone angling." The official, however, declined to be named.

Meanwhile, high level of pollution has caused serious reduction of fish stock in the Dhanmondi lake.

Officials of the Fisheries Department, which runs a project in the lake, said that the annual catch of fish from the lake has sharply decreased because of their death due to water pollution.

Besides, the lake, one of the few natural lakes still remaining in the capital, has been subjected to encroachment by the residents living around it, official sources said. A sizable portton of the land

around the lake has already been encroached upon, they said without specifying how much land was grabbed. The lake belongs to the

Works Ministry. Fisheries Department looks after the fish. Bangladesh Amateur Anglers Association catch the fish and the trees around the lake belong to the Department of Arbouriculture. This has resulted in serious management and maintenance problems, sources concerned pointed

# Ghali meets Clinton

WASHINGTON, May 28: UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali appealed to President Clinton Friday for more US support to help ease the humanitarian crisis in Rwanda, reports Reuter.

Clinton and Boutros-Ghali. who have been at odds over peacekeeping in Rwanda and Somalia also discussed international peacekeeping operations in Haiti, Somalia and Mozambique and the possibility of a UN mediation role in Yemen, Boutros-Ghali told reporters ; after the White House meeting.

UN spokesman Ahmed Fawzi said Boutros-Ghali did some negotiating to get a ceasefire on Yemen while in Washington.

# 31 Bangladeshi Hajis died

From Page 1 Col 8

they are Bangladeshi and their names are: Morshed Mia, Gias Uddin, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Sharif Idris Ali and Masud Ahmed Ameer.

The three persons, suspected earlier to be the victims of Meena incident but later proved to have met natural deaths, are: Begum Samrukh. Bachu Mia and Shafiur Rahman

The teams further unvailed the detail identifications of ten persons who died of diseases or faced natural deaths.

They are: Majhar Ahmed, passport No (1007), Abdullahal Mamun (5661), Abdul Barek (British 00740533), Mujibul Hag (H-739799), Mohammad Bachu Mia (3667), Tajul Haq (1309), Tajul Islam (1509) Mrs. Shamarun Bibi (British G 442087), Shaffur Rahman (1034) and Abdul Alim (3802). Besides, another Bangla-

deshi Haji died near Masjidul Haram on May 18 but his identity could not be ascertained as there was no relevant documents with him.

The teams also identified 18 persons who were still missing and did not come back to their respective residences. The names of the persons with

passport numbers are given below: Fazlur Rahman (4065) Moazzem Hossain (3521), Abdul Aziz (5885), Sona Mía (5746), Fazlur Rahman (4696), Abdul Monaf (1350), Garib Ullah Mondal (535). Emdadul Haq Molla (5472), Ali Akbar Majumder (1529), Nur Uddin Bhuyian (1927), Ayub Ali (1466), Abul Hosain (3282), Ramijuddin Kazi (2645), Abdul Mannan Bhuyian (2002) Mozammel Ali (2968), Gazi Ahmed Ali Sarker (4597) Mansur Mondal (8269) and Alimuddin Sikder (3202).

The teams further traced out seven persons, who earlier remained missing but later returned to their shelter. They are: Abdul Wahab Chowdhury (4132), Mahbubur Rahman (4191), Kasim Uddin (4494) Sheikh Uusuf Ali (5913). Momtazuddin (6049), Yakub (6112) and Kadbanu Bibi(462).

The teams were not sure whether anybody, among those who performed Hajj under personal management and received no government assistances, have remained missing. However, they received information that among such persons are Haji Mohammad Abdul Hai bearing passport number "K" 022242 has remained still untraced.

## **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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Prime Munister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the inaugural function of the two-day workshop on Role of Secondary, Technical and Higher Education in Human Resource Development and Poverty Alleviation" at the International Conference Centre in the city - PID photo yesterday. JS body, Shantibahini

## Tk.42.40cr power project for 3 CHT districts

RANGAMATI, May 28: The government has been implementing a Tk, 42.40 crore comprehensive electrification programme in three hilly districts of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari, reports

This was revealed at a review meeting on the overall electrification network in the hilly areas held at the Rangamati Circuit House today with Energy and Mieral Resources Minister Dr Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain in the chair.

Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) has been implementing the programme and over 20 per cent work has so far been completed.

The programme with a foreign exchange component of about Tk 5 crore has started in 1991-92 fiscal year and is expected to be completed by 1995-96.

Under the programme 442 kilometres power line will be set up and 114 transformers installed in the districts.

#### Khaleda holds From Page 1 Col 4

"We will leave no stone unturned to bring them back to business but we have not yet finalised any decision in this regard," one of the leaders concerned told The Daily Star. The door for discussion is still open," he added.

Meanwhile, top leaders of the BNP were scheduled meet at the party office vesterday evening to discuss the strategy to bring back the Opposition to the House. But the meeting could not be held due to the death of an employee of the BNP office.

The meeting is now likely to be held today or tomorrow

#### Hasina demands From Page 1 Col 5

ceivers, she added. Hasina; the Leader of the

Opposition in Parliament, also called for resolving various problems of peasants. The growers are being deprived of fair prices of their produces in the absence of agriculture policy, she said. She assured the cooperative

leaders of her support to their just demands. Earlier, Rashed Mosharrai

MP. Advisor of the Cooperative Action Council and its Convenor Khandker Abu Hossain apprised Hasina of their 14point demand and action programmes to realise those de-

### Threat of action against striking teachers condemned

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Liaison Committee of the non-government school and college teachers vesterday condemned the notice warning of punitive action against the striking teachers of the Anwara Begum Girls High School and demanded immediate withdrawal of the notice by the school authorities. At a meeting at the office of

the Bangladesh Teachers Association (Amanullah), the committee also resented the call for withdrawing the ongoing strike by the Ashraf-Nazrul group of the non-government teachers, who, the committee alleged, were acting against the interests of the general teachers. The meeting urged the agitating teachers to continue the strike and join

Presided over by Quamruzzaman, the committee decided to continue the contacts with the members of Parliament and various professional leaders to seek their support for the demands of the teachers.

the June 11 sit-in the capital.

Sheikh Amanullah, Quazi Faruque Ahmed, SM Habibur Rahman, AKM Zahirul Islam, Choudhury Khurshid Alam, Azizul Haq Shah, Hazera Begum, Asadul Haq, Abdul Awal Siddigi, Gulzar Hossain, Abdur Rab Mia and Abdus Salam attended the meeting.

#### to hold informal talks From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, May 28: The informal talks with Members of the parliamentary Shantibahini léaders will presub-committee on CHT are cede the 'main dialogue' likely to be held shortly, sources

likely to hold informal talks with the leader of Shantibahini on June 4 at Dudukchhari border village under Panchhari thana of Khagrachhari district

According to highly placed sources, the informal talks are aimed at finding out the points of agreement between the two sides to help resolve the hill tracts issue. The decision to hold infor-

mal talks was taken at the seventh round of dialogue between the parliamentary committee on CHT and Shantibahini leaders on May 5 at Khagrachhari and the subcommittee was 'constituted with Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Kalparanjan Chakma, MP. Mostaque Ahmed, MP, Md Shahjahan, MP.

### Monkey creates havoc in Savar

SAVAR, May 28: Panicstriken residents of the municipality have sought the help of the local administration to save them from a crazy monkey that bit some 30 people in last two days, reports UNB. Residents said the monkey

made sudden attack on the inmates of a house hiding itself in trees or on the roof of the house. Youths equipped with lethal weapons failed to confront the daring creature. They could not say how and

from where it appeared in the Thirty people, including

three children and two women, were injured by the crazy premate on Friday and Sa-Inhabitants of Madyapara

submitted a memorandum to Pourashava authorities and Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) today calling for help to save them from the attack of the

# Students protest murder of teacher

The authorities on Thursday

So far seven rounds of talks

informed the leaders of Shan-

tibahini about the holding of

informal talks on June 4, the

were held between the parlia-

mentary committee headed by

Communications Minister Oli

Ahmed and Shantibahini team

led by JB Larma alias Shanto

Larma, President of Parbattya

Chattagram Jana Shangati

Samity (PCJSS), to find out a

ment between the two sides

ceasefire has been continuing

in the CHT for over one and a

half years to facilitate the

holding of peace talks.

Meanwhile, as per agree-

sources said

political solution.

holidays.

The students dressed in white uniforms brought out the procession from the school at around 12 noon and ended in front of the Jatiya Press Club at around 1:30 pm.

Press Club, the students dedeteriorating law and order situation'. "The government is failing to ensure the security of life of the people," the students said:

lice recovered the decom-

# **Brothers in DMFA final** From Page 1 Col 7

reminded once again that whoever consciously sold him to the black-and-whites must be a swindler of some class as the remainder of a quartet continued to show his want of even a decent degree of quality, much to the chagrin of a near full-house crowd.

Mahbubur Rahman Roxy and Kaiser Hamid missed a couple of excellent opportunities and Ponir flung himself full length to his right to arrest a crisp Riaz header off a Shabbir cross.

Mohammedan's miseries compounded as skipper Shabbir gradually withered almost into nothingness and with Brothers lacking the fire power to make the most of the yawning gaps in the citadel across the pitch, football became pathetically chaotic, all sound and fury signifying noth-

The deadlock continued in the thirty minutes of extra time, leaving no other option for referee Mansoor but to summon the penalty shoot-out to decide the first finalists and Brothers deservingly came out of the ordeal with flying

Abahani Krira Chakra take on the new-look and exciting Muktijoddha K C in the second semifinal today at the Dhaka Stadium, scheduled for a 5:30 start.

While the depleted Abahani should draw some inspiration from the debutant Iraqi Nazar Ali, Muktijoddha will be without their skipper and star custodian Mohsin, reportedly taken ill.

Contrary to expectations Brothers Union with almost have no weighty names in their ranks, began on an aggressive note with newcomer Ranjan signed from Rahmatganj playing a pivotal role.

He kept the tentative Mohammedan defenders, particu-

# By Staff Correspondent

The students of the Tejgaon Government Polytechnic School yesterday brought out a silent procession in the city to protest the murder of the school's assistant teacher Motiur Rahman during the Eid

At a meeting in front of the

nounced the authorities for the The Dhanmondi thana po-

posed body of Motiur from his flat in Kalabagan last Monday.

# larly the tall Rehan, guessing

and managed two shots at the goal but Sheikh Abdullah Lahul. now a regular feature under the Mohammedan bar made splendid saves to keep his side Lahul's best effort, however, came off a fierce first-time vol-

ley from the top of the box by a fast improving Bhutto of Brothers with the young goalie. who has replaced his celebrated senior Syed Hassan Kanan, tipping the ball over Mohammedans, who along

with the two other top teams, Abahani and Brothers were put on the spot earlier when the majority of the country's top booters joined the Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra en masse following differences with the officials of the top trio, got just one chance in this half but young Asad, one of the better young players on show this year, failed to get past a lone Ponir.

#### COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

**Brothers Union** Attempts: Mohammedans **Brothers Union** Mohammedans (against) Mohammedans (against) Brothers Union 40%

Possession:

Mohammedans Yellow cards: Brothers Union Mohammedans TEAMS BROTHERS UNION: Ponir.

Shahzada, Moon, Mizan, Ruhul Amin, Bhutto, Uttam, Rupu, Bakhtiar, Mushtaq (Biplob) and Ranjan. MOHAMMEDAN SC: Lahul, Alamgir, Rehan, Kaisar, Shamim. Manik, Shabbir, Roxy,

zakov (Riaz) and Asaduzzaman.

Referee: M A Monsur Azad.

engineer was similarly un-Shakil (Poritosh Dewan), Kafounded. available for comment.

Shilpacharya The 18th anniversary of death of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin was observed in the country vesterday, reports

Tributes to

Different socio-cultural or ganisations organised various programmes to mark the day.

Speakers at a discussions arranged by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at its auditorium paid tributes to the memory of Zainul describing him as the pioneer of paintings in the country.

The discussions on 'Zainul Abedin and his works' was chaired by Director General of the Academy Mobarak Hossain Khan and addressed by painters Quayum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan, Prof Abul Kalam Manjur Morshed, Prof Syed Manjurul Islam and Shubeer Chowdhury. To observe the day, the

Bangla Academy organised a discussion meeting at its auditorium in the afternoon. It was addressed by Prof Nazrul Islam and Prof Mohammad Harun-or-The Shilpacharya Zainul

Abedin Smrity Parishad held a milad mahfil and offered fateha at the mazar of the late artist They also arranged a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club to mark the day.

# Baghdad blasts Saudi King

BAGHDAD, May 28: Iraq issued on Friday its strongest at tack on Saudi Arabian King Fahd since the Gulf war, reports Reuter.

"The king is a petty agent Baghdad newspapers quoted Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed Al-Sahaf as

The minister was reacting to remarks by the Saudi monarch on Tuesday in which he said Iraq had not complied with ceasefire terms ending the 1991 Gulf war. He also forecast that the world's attitude towards UN sanctions imposed on Iraq would not

Saudi Arabia invited foreign troops onto its soil in 1990 to face Iraqi troops who had invaded Kuwait.

Baghdad newspapers also hit out at King Fahd for calling for an end to the government in Baghdad.

### Nazmul Huda urges opposition to join budget session

CHITTAGONG, May 28: Information Minister Nazmu Huda today urged the opposition parties to join the coming budget session in order to make Parliament meaningful and ensure the people's welfare, reports BSS.

Addressing a freshers' reception at the Satkania Government College here the Information Minister said the opposition parties should not be in the street to press home their demand. They must return to Parliament which is the focal point of all national activities, he added.

Referring to the demand of opposition parties for holding the elections under a caretaker government, the Information Minister said any party or individual member of Parliament may come up with a bill in accordance with the constitutional rules and proce-

### Biman engineers From Page 1 Col 3

frame licence in 1970 and Abdur Rahman did not pass the examinations of basic airframe course, apprentice course and F-27 type course. Plaintiff Anam, who is now

under suspension for violating

office discipline, appealed to the court that since he has passed all the three licence examinations, he should be promoted to the post of deputy chief engineer. Khairul Anam also filed criminal cases against the two

with the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Dhaka, on Thursday. The CMM referred the case to the court of first class magistrate A K M Kamaluddin who ordered the CID to probe and submit a report immediately. When contacted, Assistant Manager (Legal Affairs) of Bi-

man Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star that the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) is the licensing authority and "We do not know how they got licences." When contacted over tele- Merger with the AL could

phone, Abdur Rahman said the case is baseless. "Why did he (Anam) bring the charge after 25 years if he had known everything," Rah-

man questioned He said he has given necessary papers to his lawyers to fight the case. "Thank God, I kept the cer-

tificate, otherwise it would have been a humiliation just before the retirement," Abdur Rahman said. In reply to a question, he said the case against the chief

The chief engineer was not

# The Midnight File

Russia still far from democracy: Solzhenitsyn

VLADIVOSTOK. Russia. May 28: One day after returning from exile. Alexander Solzhenitsyn fired a broadside at the government Saturday, saying Russia is still far from democracy and has yet to begin real economic reforms. The 75-year-old Nobel Prize-winning author spoke to reporters after touring a hospital and farmers' market in this Pacific port city, the first stop in a 10,000-klometer cross-country voyage to his new home near Moscow, reports AP.

### Fresh fighting in northern Bosnia

SARAJEVO. May 28: Fresh fighting erupted in northern Bosnia after the republic's warring factions accused each other of blocking progress at the latest round of peace talks. The Bosnian Serbs said six rockets fired by Croat forces hit the northern town of Brcko, which commands a vital Serb supply route. They also said they repelled an assault by the Muslim led government army in the area of Mount Majevica, where an important television relay tower is located, reports

# **UN-DPRK** nuclear talks yield no results

WASHINGTON, May 28: Talks between North Korea and the UN's nuclear watchdog agency appear to have ended in failure, a senior US government official said Friday. reports AP.

The talks were an attempt to resolve a dispute over the defueling of a North Korean nuclear reactor.

The official, speaking on condition he not be identified. said President Clinton's administration nonetheless was willing to resume its own highlevel diplomatic talks with North Korea. He said no date has been set for resuming those talks, which could set a basis for normalizing US relations with North Korea.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in comments after a speech to the Asia Society in New York, said a new round of US-North Korean talks would be "a difficult and complicated one because we will have to resolve in that dialogue the nuclear issues as well as holding out the prospect of having more normal relations."

Christopher said in the speech that "if North Korea rejects these negotiations." the United States will be in a better position to garner international support for UN economic sanctions, which would condemn North Korea to "pariah status."

Christopher did not mention the breakdown of the IAEA-North Korea talks the past week.

Meanwhile, Robert L Gallucci, the State Department of ficial coordinating US policy on Korea, was quoted in an interview published Friday in a Fauzderhat rly

# station ransacked From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 27: Some unruly passengers allegedly ransacked the Fouzderhat railway station and injured an employee of Sagarika Express train last night. According to railway police,

the incident occurred when the express train bound for Chittagong from Chandpur stopped at Fouzderhat station at 11 last night. The passengers attacked the station protesting the train's stoppage at Fouzderhat station.

From Page 1 Col 4

States must speak out against repression in Kashmir and play in effective role for the resolution of the dispute. He said Pakistan believed that the United States, as the only super power of the world, could intercede and resolve the is-

The President said Kashmir remains a major flash point in the world and any miscalculation could lead to an accidental war, the international community owed it to the world peace to extend all help to resolve the dispute. Meanwhile AFP reports, In-

dian army captured a top Kashmiri Muslim militant leader today in the state capital of Srinagar, army sources Maussam Ali, supreme

commander of the Al-Barq organisation, offered no resistance and gave himself up after his hideout in the Rajbagh district was surrounded by troops, the sources said.

# From Page 1 Col 8

strengthen the mainstream pro-independence forces the country, the Odud-led faction, backed by Suranjit Sengupta, argued at the conference.

On the other hand, Abdul Hamid, general secretary of the party's Sylhet district unit and his supporters said at the conference that the AL had deviated from the spirit of country's liberation war, The GP should maintain its independent identity with a view to asserting the spirit of the war of independence they argued. This faction reportedly en-

joys the blessings of Peer Habibur Rahman,

South Korean newspaper as saying the United States would be willing to set up a diplomatic liaison office in North Korea if the overall nuclear dispute were resolved. The defueling issue is

between North Korea and the international community: its nuclear intentions. If the reactor is not defueled in a certain way, the international community could lose forever the possibility of knowing North Korea's nuclear

highly technical but is central

to the main source of friction

North Korea contends its nuclear programme is strictly for non-military use.

Officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency met for three days the past week with North Korean officials in the capital. Pyongyang, and at Yongbyon, the site of North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development project.

Meanwhile, North Korea is

apparently planning to test

launch a new kind of missile.

Japanese media reported Sat-

urday, in a development that could worsen fears about the intentions of the reclusive communist state. Pyongyang has already raised international concerns by thwarting UN officials from fully inspecting its nuclear fa-

cilities, heightening suspicions

that it might be developing a

nuclear weapon. Information gathered by a US spy satellite and passed on to the Japanese government suggest that the new missile would be an improved version of the Rodong 1 missile tested last May, the Yomirul and Tokyo Shimbun newspapers

# Clash at Satkania College

reported.

By Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 28: Several students were injured during a clash between the supporters of Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir in Satkania College this afternoon.

The clash ensued when the

Shibir activists tried to foil

the staging of a band-show at a college function today, police Later, police brought the situation under control and dis-

#### persed the rival groups. Banks may get

From Page 1 Col 3

But the current economic depression has stunted investments, leading to doldrums in credit activities. Under this situation, the banks are thinking it wiser to keep their bonds against which they get some

marginal interest. The shortage of government securities has also forced the banks to discourage new deposits because any further liabilities would mean a fise in their SLR requirement. This on top of the fact that the call money rate is in the depressed range of 1.5 and two per cent.

The government's need for

issuance of bills and securities has greatly reduced this year as its borrowings has also declined with improvement in domestic resource mobilisation. The proportion of internal resource for the annual development programme has reached about 40 per cent of the total revised outlay. Moreover, the debts of the banks to the central banks have been retired to a large extent. sources said. However, the situation

should improve from June this year as the government will float over Tk 500 crore worth of bonds to the banks under the World Bank-funded jute sector adjustment credit (JSAC) programme. The past debts of the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) will also be settled through bonds in June. Financial experts feel that

with the new moves, the banks would be in a better position to tackle their excess liquidity, but unless the economy picks up the crisis would resurface a few months later.