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The Daily Star
PUBLIC DEBATE



Today, on Page 4, Minister for Energy Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain, who is also a member of the ruling BNP's top Standing Committee, argues why the next general elections should not be held under a caretaker government. The Daily Star invites readers' views on the subject.

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Army intensify patrol in Karachi



Irish Nobel Prize winner refused entry into Philippines Page 5

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1.6m workers join country's labour market every year

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NEWS BRIEFS

SAIC special meet begins today

The two-day special meeting of the governing board of the SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) begins in Dhaka today. Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the host country Bangladesh will participate in the meeting, reports BSS.

Anandalok Apr 9 issue banned

Government has banned the April 9 issue of the Indian cine-magazine "Anandalok." The government under the Criminal Procedure Act banned the issue of the magazine for publishing derogatory remarks on Bangladesh in one of its articles, according to an official handout issued last night, reports UNB.

Saifur returns

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman returned home yesterday from Washington at the end of a week-long visit to the United States, reports BSS.

NAM FMs' confce opens in Cairo tomorrow

CAIRO, May 29: Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) — facing wars in Yemen, Rwanda and Bosnia — meet here Tuesday with South Africa taking part for the first time, reports AFP. Eighty-five countries are sending their Foreign Ministers for the four-day conference, including Alfred Nzo for South Africa following its first all-race elections, Egyptian officials said. A Serbian request to take part in the conference is to be examined on Monday at the level of senior officials, but it is unlikely to be approved, said an Egyptian diplomatic source. Yugoslavia was a key member of NAM before its breakup.

But Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa has accused Serbia of violating international law and opposes Belgrade taking part in meetings of the 108-nation Movement. Apart from Serbia, NATO countries as well as Russia have asked for observer status. On the agenda will be conflicts threatening several member states, such as Yemen, Rwanda and Bosnia. The delegates have to choose a new country to host the next NAM summit and chair the group of developing countries, following Indonesia whose three-year term ends in September 1995. So far no country has announced its candidacy, although Latin American states

have been lobbying for the position since the region last hosted the summit in 1979, in Cuba. The diplomatic source said Iran could run as chairman. Its Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, is to attend the Cairo conference although Egypt and Iran do not have diplomatic relations. The conference will also set up a committee to re-examine the role of NAM with the end of the Cold War and super-power rivalry. Both Egypt and Indonesia are expected to submit documents outlining their vision of the future. Cairo had proposed that NAM be integrated into the Group of 77 developing countries. See Page 12 Col 8

Political impasse No light yet at end of tunnel

By Nurul Kabir
The present political impasse, created due to the opposition demand for holding general elections under a caretaker government and the ruling party's reluctance to meet the demand, is yet to be resolved. With only a week left for the opening of the budget session of Parliament on June 6, it is still uncertain whether the opposition parties would take part in the proceedings of the house. The opposition parties, especially the largest opposition in Parliament Awami League (AL) and the second largest Jatiya Party (JP) are still inclined towards boycotting the budget session unless the See Page 12 Col 4

Troops patrol tense areas in Assam 50 Bengali Muslim settlers massacred

GUWAHATI, May 29: Indian troops with shoot-on-sight orders patrolled tense areas today in the northeastern state of Assam after tribal militants massacred nearly 50 Muslim settlers, officials and witnesses said, reports AFP. The victims were identified today as Bengali-speaking Muslims, either locals or of so-called-Bangladeshi stock, who had settled in Bodo lands in Kokrajhar to the resentment of tribes people. State government officials in Guwahati, Assam's main city, said the situation in the violence-torn district of Kokrajhar was "tense but under control." There has been no escalation (in violence) but tension continues to prevail, a government spokesman said here citing reports reaching from Kokrajhar, 250 kilometres northwest of Guwahati. Ten truckloads of army troops were deployed in Kokrajhar and the surrounding countryside in addition to hundreds of police and paramilitary troops to stop the violence that erupted Friday and restore order. Security forces, which have been equipped with orders to shoot rioters on sight, toured the district Sunday in a deterrent show of strength, officials said. A hunt was also underway for the killers. See Page 12 Col 1



Anniversary of Zia's death today

By Staff Correspondent
The 13th anniversary of the death of President Ziaur Rahman will be observed throughout the country today. On this day in 1981, Zia was assassinated by a group of army mutineers at the Chittagong Circuit House. In observance of the day, the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), founded by Zia, and its front bodies have drawn up elaborate plans. The day's programmes include visit to the mazar of the late Zia at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, placing wreaths and offering *fateha*, discussion meetings on the life and works of the See Page 12 Col 4



Avahani goalkeeper Saiful cuts off a potential threat during yesterday's semifinal of the third DMFA Cup tournament against Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Dhaka Stadium. A 2-1 win pitted Abahani against Brothers Union in next Tuesday's final.

Abahani come back from behind

Sports Reporter
The difference between donning and not donning the jersey of any of the local football giants was underlined once again when Abahani KC came back from behind to beat a virtual national team by the odd goal in three in the second semi-final of the DMFA Cup football tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Last year's runners-up Abahani made light work of the physical burden of being enfeebled by an exodus earlier this year to beat star-studded Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra in the 120-minute marathon, up and down encounter to set up an avengers' final against Brothers Union on Tuesday. The newsmaking Muktiyoddha, who roped in 11 of the so-called 'pool' players in this year's players transfers, were kept defending their citadel most of the time. Yet they managed to take the lead, quite against the run of play, seven minutes before the long whistle when Mizanur Rahman headed home a crisp minus from winger Mamun Joarder (1-0). But Arun Bikash Dewan, the Muktiyoddha reserve custodian who had the onus of guarding the post following skipper Mohsin's ailment, missed the flight of a Nazir Ali Hossain free-kick at the far end of the stipulated 90-minutes, leaving diminutive midfielder Swapan, younger brother of former Abahani player Samrat Hossain Emly to nod the ball into an open net (1-1). Abahani, who were deprived of three good chances in the first half, got the match-winner in the 14th minute of extra time when referee Nazir Hossain awarded them a penalty as custodian Arun dived at full length to thwart a menacingly poised Iraqi player See Page 12 Col 1

Five missing Hajis traced

Five of the 18 Hajis, who were reported untraced earlier, backed to their respective lodgings. Foreign Office sources said yesterday quoting a message received from Saudi Arabia, reports BSS. The five persons traced out by the inquiry teams are: Sona Mia, Abdul Monaf, Ali Akbar Majumder, Ayub Ali and Al-imuddin Sikder. The teams have continued to search the 83 residential houses rented for the Hajis. However, there was no report of further death, the sources added.

4 top Indian human rights activists propose Delhi should open dialogue with 'real' Kashmiri leaders

NEW DELHI, May 29: Four leading Indian human rights activists today urged the government to talk to the "real representatives of the people of Kashmir" in a bid to end the four-year-old Muslim insurgency in the state, reports AFP. "What is required for the solution of the Kashmir problem is a dialogue between the government and the real representatives of the people of Kashmir." They said in a statement issued in the state's summer capital Srinagar. "It will not do to have a dialogue between traditional political leaders who are no

longer popular or accepted in the (Kashmir) valley," the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted them as saying. "There should be no pre-conditions by either side for the holding of a dialogue." This may result in a solution of the present difficulties in Kashmir, V M Tarukunde, Kuldip Nayar, Madhu Kishwar and N D Pancholi said in a joint statement at the end of a five-day tour of the northern state. The activists suggested that New Delhi should talk to Yasin Malik of the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, who was freed on May 16 after four years in prison, and other

popular leaders in the state. The four said although violence by Muslim guerrillas fighting to secede Kashmir from India had come down in recent weeks, the people were still bitter with India. "Although militancy in Kashmir is much less than before, the discontent and bitterness of the people against the government of India as well as India generally is intense," the statement said. The activists said the bitterness was increasing everyday because "innocent people have been subjected to inhuman torture" by India security forces, thousands of whom are deployed in the border state.

Viral diseases spread due to sultry weather

By Staff Correspondent
The current hot and humid weather coupled with occasional scattered showers is causing viral diseases across the country, doctors say. Many people are suffering from dysentery, flu, cough and cold, tonsil problems and high fever. According to doctors, children are the worst victims. "Ninety per cent of the patients are now suffering from these viral diseases," said Dr Abdul Matin, a government physician. He said, the prevailing sultry weather in the capital as well as in other parts of the country was the cause of outbreak of the viral diseases. "During the last one and a half months, most of the patients I had seen suffered from amoebic dysentery. About 50 per cent of my patients were See Page 12 Col 1

BB circular upsets fabric exporters

By Sohail Manzur
Implementation of the government programme of cash incentives to the exporters of local fabrics has become difficult because of procedural complications created by a circular of the Bangladesh Bank, according to sources concerned. The exporters who are not entitled to receive the facilities under the bonded warehouse and the duty drawback system were brought under the 'alternative arrangement' to enable them to compete in the world market. According to the arrangement made sometime last year, this kind of exporters, along with the manufacturers

of export-oriented fabrics were entitled to get 25 per cent of the total export value as cash incentive. They used to get the money from their negotiating banks with less formalities before issuance of the Bangladesh Bank circular. But the circular issued recently has made the procedure complicated and time consuming, affecting the exporters, it is alleged. Under the new system, applicants for the cash incentives have to fill up some forms and get the recommendations of those concerned with the export of the products. But in most cases they do not act properly since they would not See Page 12 Col 6

CU Controller of Exams made OSD, 2 suspended

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 29: The Controller of Examinations of Chittagong University was made OSD (officer on special duty) and two other officials were suspended yesterday in connection with the 1992 Degree (Pass) examination answer script scandal. The decision was taken at a special general meeting of the CU syndicate yesterday with Vice Chancellor Prof. Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury in the chair. The syndicate members, after detailed discussion on the irregularities committed in the Degree examination of 1992, made the Controller of See Page 12 Col 2



A South Yemeni soldier fires a 130 mm gun towards northern Yemeni forces during a fierce fighting at the key Al-Anad military base, some 50 km north of Aden Saturday. — AFP photo

Heavy shelling on Aden airport

SANAA, May 29: Northern forces have launched a fierce artillery assault on Aden airport to try to ground southern warplanes attacking advancing troops, a military spokesman said here today, reports AFP. But the spokesman denied Southern claims the north had unleashed a missile attack on the southern stronghold of Aden which killed one civilian on Saturday. "They explosions heard in Aden are the result of artillery fired from the legal (Northern) forces against the air base at Aden airport," the spokesman

told the official Saba news agency. There was no confirmation from southern sources of the shelling of the airport which is located between Aden's old city, the port and the suburbs. "All military targets in Aden are now within range of northern artillery currently positioned at least 14 kilometres (eight miles) from the city," the spokesman added. The shelling of the airport is to "prevent the rebel, separatist band from using it to launch air raids against civilians and legal forces," he said.

adding no "civilian facility or neighbourhood will be targeted by artillery." The goal is to "force the rebel separatists to surrender and submit to the will of the people who support unity, and democracy and respect constitutional legality," he said. AP adds: North Yemen Sunday said the UN Security Council should not approve Arab proposals for a cease-fire in the 3 1/2-week-old civil war between it and the secessionist south. Planning Minister Abdul See Page 12 Col 7

Ctg, Cox's Bazar rocked

By Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 29: An earthquake this evening rocked the Chittagong city. But its intensity could not be measured on the Richter scale as the officials of the seismic observatory here were not available at their office. According to police sources, the tremor that lasted about a minute from 8:14 pm caused no loss of life or damage to property. The panic-stricken residents of the city came out of their houses while others were seen running for safety. Our Cox's Bazar Correspondent also reported a tremor in the area but of milder intensity. The tremor lasted 4-5 seconds.

Sunken launch salvaged

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 29: The passenger launch that capsized at Muradpur point of Sandwip channel yesterday was salvaged this afternoon, police said. No body was, however, recovered as yet despite search operation by police. The overturned launch sank while on its way to Chittagong from Sandwip. Sixty passengers were reportedly missing.

QUIZ-5 COUNTDOWN

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You can still send Entries for Quiz 5 up to June 5, 1994 (10PM)