

The Daily Star
PUBLIC DEBATE



Today, on Page 4,
Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, MP, and Acting
Chairman of the Jatiya
Party argues that the
next general elections
should be held under a
caretaker government.

Readers' opinions on
the subject are welcome.

Inside Today

International

500 massacred in
Rwanda over the
weekend

By-elections in two
Indian states begin
amid tight security

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Business

Task force to be set up
soon to study GATT
accord

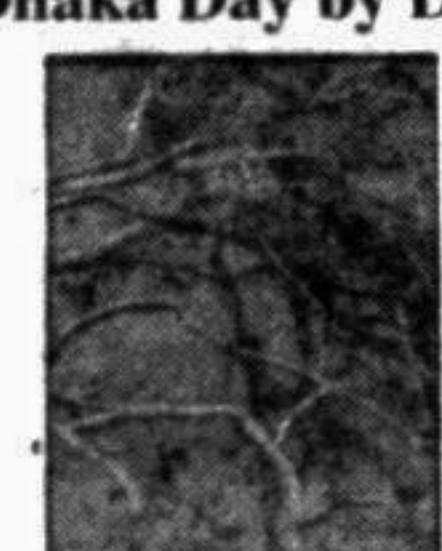
Japan accuses US of
trade sins
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Science and
Technology

Solar-powered village
in India a great success
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Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Proud but Lonely
Krishnachura
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NEWS BRIEFS

Heatwave kills
37 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, May 31: A heatwave sweeping Pakistan has killed 37 people in the past three days, state television said today. It gave no further details. Islamabad and several other towns have faced drinking water shortages for the past few weeks. The television quoted weather officials as saying the hot spell, which has taken temperatures above 50 degrees Celsius (22 degrees Fahrenheit) could continue until monsoon rains expected in early July, reports Reuter.

1500 ganza plants
seized in Savar

A special team of the Narcotics Control Directorate seized 1,500 pieces of ganza plants from a field in Savar thana yesterday. Acting on a tip, the team with the help of local police raided Dashpara village in Savar thana and recovered the ganza plants from a field, reports UNB.

PM chairs crucial NEC meet today

Allocation for next ADP likely to be slashed

By Inam Ahmed

The National Economic Council (NEC) meets today to decide the fate of next year's Annual Development Programme (ADP), already dubbed by many as "over ambitious".

The NEC meeting to be presided by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is being seen as very crucial by experts because it will have to chart a careful course between two harsh realities — an unexpectedly poor implementation rate, the outgoing fiscal and a record high allocation for the next.

Next year's ADP outlay has been estimated at Tk 11,000 crore, about Tk 1200 crore more than this year's.

However, this figure is likely to undergo changes because many feel it will be hard to meet the target under the present implementation capability of the government.

This assumption is backed by the current year's implementation outcome which shows a severe shortfall. According to Finance Ministry sources, different government agencies have been able to use only about 52 per cent of the revised ADP till April this year.

"But we, for the first time,

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Political impasse



FATE ON THE MAKE: Abahani's Iraqi striker Nazar Ali Hassan sends the ball into the Brothers goal with a deft flick past a helpless custodian Ponir in yesterday's final of the third DMFA Cup at the Dhaka Stadium. The goal ensured Abahani's first-ever DMFA Cup triumph.

— Star photo

Hasina exchanging views with party's policy-making bodies

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League (AL) chief

Sheikh Hasina begins an ex-

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ways of realising the demand for

general elections under a

caretaker government.

Sheikh Hasina is scheduled

to first sit with the mem-

bers of the advisory council.

She is likely to have another meeting

with the presidium members

tomorrow.

AL General Secretary Zillur

Rahman, talking to The Daily

Star last night, said the meet-

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Once finalised by the party

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