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NEWS BRIEFS

One killed, 100 hurt in Jhenidah clash

JHENIDAH, June 3: One village leader was killed and more than 100 injured in a bloody clash over land in Shaikupa thana today. Witnesses and police said hundreds of people of 7 villages were engaged in the clash that continued from dawn to noon.

25 die in Indian ferry capsizes

NEW DELHI, June 3: At least 25 people were killed when a ferry capsized in the Bay of Bengal today, the Press Trust of India said. The vessel was heading for the coastal island of Mousumi when it capsized and sank off the coast of West Bengal state, reports AFP.

105 DU dons favour caretaker govt

By Staff Correspondent One hundred and five teachers of Dhaka University in a joint statement yesterday urged the government to consider seriously the demand for holding the national elections under a caretaker government.

12 Islamic extremists killed in Russia

MOSCOW, June 3: About a dozen Tajik Islamic extremists were killed in a clash with Russian border guards overnight Thursday on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, the border guard headquarters at Dushanbe said, reports AFP.

29 die in British chopper crash

MULL OF KINTYRE, Scotland, June 3: Leaders of Britain's intelligence war against IRA guerrillas were killed when 29 people died in a helicopter crash in thick fog on a rugged Scottish headland, police said today, reports Reuters.

NAM for strengthening S-S cooperation

CAIRO, June 3: The 11th foreign ministerial conference of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) concluded in Cairo today with the adoption of the Cairo Declaration and a final document, reports Xinhua. During the four-day conference, foreign ministers or their representatives from 109 NAM member states discussed the future role of the movement after the ending of the cold war. The Cairo Declaration gives the main outlines of the future action of the Non-Aligned Movement in dealing with the political and economic issues of interest to NAM member

states. The declaration called for seeking every possible means, to solve the disputes and expressed determination to further strengthen South-South cooperation and to pursue North-South dialogue. The NAM countries should pursue their efforts toward achieving more effectiveness in performing the role of the movement by regular and intensive coordination among them and unifying their stands in major international issues. In this way they could have a stronger voice in the United Nations and in negotiations with developed countries, the

final document said. It added the non-aligned and other developing countries should persist in contributing to the shaping of a new international economic order. The document also covered disarmament and international security, the environment and development, social development and conflicts and disputes in a number of countries. In addition, the ministers stressed the importance of strengthening and regulating cooperation between NAM and the Group of 77. The conference adopted a resolution on asking the UN See Page 12 Col 5

Dhaka sees Bosnia issue an acid test for NAM

CAIRO, June 3: Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman said here today that the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina remained, an acid test of the credibility of the international community and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), reports BSS. The Foreign Minister was intervening in the plenary during general discussion in the 11th conference of the foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries. He said it was the collective responsibility of NAM countries to uphold the principle of sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of all states and reject unequivocally the acquisition of territory by force. See Page 12 Col 2

Opposition parties firm on their stance

Star Report The political crisis created following the Opposition's demand for holding Parliament elections under a caretaker government continued to persist till yesterday with no headway towards ending the impasse reported. The combined opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) reiterated its determination to continue its boycott of Parliament sessions unless the ruling party agrees to bring a bill providing for a caretaker government. Meanwhile, the presidium of the Awami League discussed the draft framework for a caretaker government and decided to initiate a countrywide cam-

Star Report paign on the issue from the middle of this month. The leaders of the Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-Islami and NDP parliamentary wings met yesterday evening at the Parliament office of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to discuss the latest situation and observed that nothing had changed. "We have decided to remain firm on our demand and our previous stand (to boycott Parliament) will continue," Opposition Chief Whip Mohammed Nasim told newsmen after the four-hour parley that began at 5 pm. Begum Sajeda Chowdhury See Page 12 Col 4

Stop criticism against each other, Khaleda asks partymen

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the party leaders and workers to devote themselves to the nation building activities and people's welfare, reports UNB. She also called for strengthening the party, especially its different wings, and for apprising the people of the government's development activities. "Our organisational structure is very weak, so we have to work sincerely to strengthen the party. We must inform people of our development efforts," Begum Zia said. The Prime Minister was addressing the evening session See Page 12 Col 3



CATCHING A CAR THIEF: Driver Montu Miah displayed great presence of mind to nab the thief who was about to steal his parked vehicle near the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday afternoon. Smart Montu Miah managed to get half inside the car and pin down the thief before help came. Next time he wants to buy a paan from a roadside shop Montu Miah will make sure all the doors and windows are locked! - Star photo

Hague for placing FAP before JS

Star Report The Netherlands, one of the donors of the controversial Flood Action Plan (FAP), wants the issue to be discussed in the Jatiya Sangsad. The Dutch Ambassador to Bangladesh raised the issue at a meeting with the Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) recently, according to sources concerned. The issue cropped up as the Netherlands feels that any controversial subject of such major import must get 'legitimacy' from Parliament. The source pointed out. The ambassador is also learnt to have suggested that the Bangladesh government should start an extensive media campaign for people's awareness on the issue. Another suggestion to set up an information centre at the FPCO office in Dhaka was also put forward. The proposed centre would publish brochures and booklets on different aspects of the FAP and its possible impact on the environment. See page 12 Col 3

Kuldip Nayar tells workshop Delhi should revive '77 Ganges treaty

By Staff Correspondent Eminent Indian journalist Kuldip Nayar has urged the Indian government to revive the 1977 agreement with Bangladesh for sharing the Ganges waters. The agreement should also be allowed to run for 10 years pending a final accord for a permanent solution to the problem, he said. Time should be allowed prior to the final agreement to enable Bangladesh to develop its own water utilisation facilities. Nayar said at a workshop on 'women for water sharing' held in the city yesterday at Sonargaon Hotel. The workshop, organised by the Task Force on Women and the Environment, adopted a set of recommendations urging both the governments to sign an agreement immediately. Six scientific papers related

to the Ganges water sharing, environment and ecological impact of Farakka Barrage and its legal implications were presented at the workshop. Mrs Mrinal Pandey, Associate Editor of The Hindustan; Miss Madhu Kishwar, Editor of Manushi magazine, from India and Anjad Hossain Khan, Dr Khurshida Khandaker, Dr Bilqis Amin Hoque, M A Jabbar, Dr Anwarul Karim, Dr Mozammel Hoque, Hasna Moudud and Mohiuddin Farooq of Bangladesh and Gustav Marin from France also spoke on the occasion. Kuldip Nayar, who co-chaired the workshop with Hasna Moudud, said that India should have Ganges treaty with Bangladesh. "Something has gone wrong from Indian side and some-

Flood situation in Sylhet unchanged

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, June 3: The overall flash flood situation in the district has further deteriorated today with inundation of new areas in Kanaighat, Jaintapur, Companiganj and Gowainghat thanas. Meanwhile, bodies of three persons, who were drowned in a boat capsized yesterday in Gowainghat, were recovered this afternoon. Nearly 10,000 acres of cropland in 10 haors and beels in Kanaighat thana went under water during the last 24 hours. The Surma dyke at different points in Kanaighat is threatened with breach due to heavy pressure of rolling waters from the upstream. The Gowainghat thana is flowing 70 cm above the danger level. Tidal waves kill 150 in Indonesia

Pre-budget price hike hits consumers

By Staff Correspondent As in the past, the prices of essentials have gone up in the city markets on the eve of the budget session of parliament that begins on June 6. The prices started rising well before the Eid-ul-Azha last month. This trend will continue for a month, trade circles say. Sugar was selling at Tk 33-34 per kg and soyabean oil at Tk 55-56 per kg yesterday showing a rise by Tk 5 to 7 in both cases. The prices of different brands of powder milk also rose by Tk 3 to 5 per two -kg can. Wholesalers say that as the Sugar and Food Industries Corporation reduced the allocation of sugar by five tons per dealer last month, the prices increased by Tk 100 to 110 per ton. But the corporation says it did not reduce allocation for the dealers and blames the wholesalers for the price hike. Sugar tastes sour now-a-days, said a buyer at the Kawan Bazar Market. The price was Tk 28 per kg early last month, Tk 32 on the eve of the Eid and now it is Tk 34. "Who knows what will be the price after the budget is placed."

4 DB men hurt during chase to catch muggers

By Staff Correspondent Four Detective Branch policemen were seriously wounded when a street-gang hurled crackers at a police microbus in Wari under Sutrapur police station in the city yesterday afternoon. A patrol team of the Detective Branch (DB) led by police inspector A B M Sultan Ahmed chased the gangsters who were fleeing after snatching a bank cheque for Tk 66,000 and Tk 930 in cash from two businessmen - Ayat Ali and Nazrul Islam - at Tipu Sultan Road near the Salmullah College. The DB men opened fire and managed to hold one of the muggers after shooting him and recovered the snatched cheque and cash. The DB team, which was on a special patrol at Rankin Street, followed the muggers' autorickshaw which was trying to escape a chase by the Sutrapur patrol police and members of the public at around 2.15 pm. All the fingers on the left hand of inspector Sultan were blown away by one of the cock-tails which hit the microbus. He needed emergency surgery at the Dhaka Medical College See Page 12 Col 4

Kathmandu confce may favour Ganges Barrage Project

Star Report The much-talked-about Ganges Barrage Project may finally take off when a four-nation water conference in Kathmandu in October charts plans to tackle the common ecological problems in South Asia. Sponsors of the conference in Dhaka said that the third meet on the Eastern Himalayan Waters would approve studies on a barrage across the Ganges (Padma) inside Bangladesh territory to offset the adverse impact of the Farakka barrage. Besides, the two-day conference on October 26 and 27 would also approve separate studies on the adverse impact caused by the Tipai Mukh project in India as well as the Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project in Nepal, they said. The three projects were identified during the second conference on the Eastern Himalayan Waters in Dhaka in November last year, a process that started yet one year back to explore identical problems of ecology and environment which can be tackled regionally. The governments of Bang-

And now for the BIGGEST The Daily Star Quiz

lades, India and Nepal were likely to give a go-ahead to the three projects once approved by the water conference in Kathmandu, the organisers hoped. Supported by a Japan-based NGO, The Global Infrastructure Fund (GIF), the Kathmandu conference will be attended by delegations from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal. Three reputed research organisations - Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), the Centre for Policy Research of India and the Institute of Inter-

Advertisement for 'The Daily Star Quiz' featuring a 'BUMPER PRIZE' of Tk. 1,25,000. It includes details about the prize, the final location in Los Angeles, and a list of regular prizes like a Transcom Electronics Limited TV, Philips BW TV, and Philips Bulbs. The ad also features an image of the Statue of Liberty and a globe.

Cong (I) routed in Uttar Pradesh by-polls

NEW DELHI, June 3: India's ruling Congress (I) Party was routed in by-elections in the country's most populous state and suffered an unexpected defeat at the hands of a Sikh party elsewhere, officials said Friday, reports AFP. The Congress lost four of the six by-elections held May 31 to fill seats in the Uttar Pradesh state legislature and was heading for a crushing defeat in the other two state assembly races, election officials said. Two seats were bagged by Uttar Pradesh's ruling two-party combine led by the Socialist Party and two by the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Indian People's Party) relegating the Congress to a poor third. The Congress candidate polled less than six per cent of the vote in one constituency, Bhagwantnagar, forfeiting the election deposit of 16 dollars. The Congress has been

Taiwan's women MPs trade slaps, kicks in NA

TAIPEI, June 3: Taiwan's women legislators screamed, traded slaps and kicks and pulled each other's hair in a fight during a national assembly session today, reports Reuters. Su Chih-Yang of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) walked up to the rostrum and slapped Kuo Su-Chun of the ruling Nationalist Party whom she accused of insinuating that she had sat immodestly. The slap triggered a brawl in the assembly for the fourth day this week. Nationalist deputy Lin Chang-Ju rushed to Kuo's rescue and jumped on Su. These two women grabbed each other's hair and repeatedly slapped each other in the face while Kuo stood by stunned and broke into tears. See Page 12 Col 5

Shantibahini, JS body hold informal talks today

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, June 3: The parliamentary sub-committee on the hill tract affairs will hold informal talks with the leaders of Shantibahini tomorrow at Dudukchhari border village under Panchhari thana of Khagrachhari district. Official sources said this would be the preparatory talks for holding the next round of peace talks between the parliamentary committee headed by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed and Shantibahini leaders. The sub-committee includes Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Kalparanjan Chakma, MP, Mostaque Ahmed, MP, and Md Shahjahan, MP. The decision for holding informal talks with rebel leaders was taken at the seventh round of talks held on May 5 at the Khagrachhari Circuit House between the parliamentary com-

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