



Inside Today

Article

The Daily Star Public Debate: What do Our Readers Think? Page 4

International



Clinton calls for fortifying US-Europe partnership

PLO rejects conditional release of Palestinians Page 5

Business

Privatisation process needs govt attention, column by Abu Ahmed

Pacific economies bright this year Pages 6, 7

Women On The Move

The Intervening Marriage and 'Hila'; Safe Custody: A Pressing Need; Onwards We March towards Beijing; Fourth World Conference on Women; The Problems Women Face in the Workplace Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Troublesome Eligible Spinners Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Swedish envoy calls on Hasina

Swedish Ambassador in Bangladesh Bjorn Ingemar Sternby called on the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Minto Road residence yesterday. They discussed political, economic and social matters of Bangladesh and Sweden, reports UNB.

US envoy meets Food Minister

US ambassador in Bangladesh David N Merrill yesterday called on Food Minister Mir Shaukat Ali at the latter's Secretariat office. They discussed matters relating to food production, procurement policy of foodgrains and progress of the procurement drive this year in Bangladesh. The US ambassador expressed his appreciation on the overall food management in the country, reports BSS.

Japanese team to meet Zahiruddin

The Japanese investment mission due to visit Bangladesh from June 11 will also meet the Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan among other ministers. It was learnt yesterday.

'Chandan Pater Bahaj' proscribed

The government has proscribed the book 'Chandan Pater Bahaj' written by Md Amjad Hossain Mostan for containing statement repugnant to the religious feelings of the Muslims and their faith. The government has also banned the sale, distribution and preservation of all copies of the book, according to an official press release issued in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Caretaker government

PM ready if debate held inside JS

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday accepted the challenge of Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina for a debate on the issue of a caretaker government. Begum Zia made an announcement to this effect on the floor of the Jatiya Sangsad amidst thumpings of tables by the ruling party legislators yesterday evening. She also announced that her debate

with the Opposition leader would be broadcast and telecast live. She, however, said the debate would have to be held in the House. The Prime Minister, in her three-minute speech in the House, after the Maghreb prayer recess, said, "The Leader of the Opposition at a public meeting yesterday (Tuesday) proposed a debate with me over the Radio and Television and now I accept

the proposal". Amid applause from the treasury bench members, the Leader of the House also said, "I assure the Opposition that arrangements would be made to broadcast the debate live on Radio and Television. But the debate must be held here in this Parliament elected by the people of the country", she added. Accepting the challenge for See Page 12 Col 3

Hasina's 'no' to Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has rejected Leader of the House and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's 'response' to her proposal for an open debate on the issue of caretaker government. "Such a debate cannot be held in Parliament unless the ruling party tables a bill on the caretaker issue," Hasina told a crowded press briefing at the Opposition's conference room at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday.

Her reaction came after Begum Zia made a brief announcement in Parliament accepting Hasina's challenge for a debate between the two leaders over the Radio and Television. See Page 12 Col 1

Budget today

Star Report

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will present in Parliament the 24th national budget today against the backdrop of low investment and slow utilisation of development funds despite macro-economic stability and people's aspirations for a rapid growth. The proposed budget for fiscal 1994-95 is being seen as a critical one since it will have to address a number of issues including giving a right direction to the industrial sector vis-a-vis the liberalised trade, adjusting growth with poverty alleviation and making the economy 'actively pro-private sector'.

Apart from all these, Saifur Rahman will set a personal record on the day by presenting the highest number of budgets by any finance minister in the country. This will be his sixth budget, fourth in a row since 1991. The proposed budget for See Page 12 Col 8



M. Saifur Rahman

Delhi plans to pound Kashmiri rebel targets

NEW DELHI, June 8: India is considering bombing Muslim rebel targets in Jammu-Kashmir state for the first time, a top government minister said Wednesday, reports AP.

"We will launch operations which might include air strikes in specific forest areas of the region," Rajesh Pilot, the junior home minister, told Press Trust of India in Jammu, the second largest city and the winter capital of Jammu-Kashmir state.

Since becoming independent from Britain in 1947, Indian troops have never used warplanes or helicopter gunships to attack rebel targets in Jammu-Kashmir, Punjab state or the remote Northeast. Although the government has said it is willing to talk to the Muslim rebels fighting to win an independent nation for Kashmiris, it also has stepped up ground attacks on the militants.

Pilot indicated that air strikes may be limited to Doda, a thickly wooded area that contains 700 sparsely-populated villages with an equal mix of Hindu and Muslim people. Rebels in Jammu-Kashmir, the only Muslim-

See Page 12 Col 7

4 file nominations for Bogra-4 by-election

By Staff Correspondent

Only four candidates including Dr Ziaul Haq Mollah of the BNP yesterday filed nomination papers for contesting the Bogra-4 by-election, scheduled to be held on July 7 next, according to the Election Commission sources.

Three other candidates — Azimushshan, A S M Ekramul Haq and Rafiqul Islam — are contesting the by-election independently.

The opposition parties including the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami are boycotting the by-election. They claim that no fair election was possible under the BNP government after the "ballot robbery" in Magura-2 by-election.

The Returning Officer is scheduled to scrutinise the nomination papers today while the last day for withdrawal of candidature is June 15.

The JS seat fell vacant following the death of Azizul Haq of the BNP on April 10.

Police case against Janakantha

Toab Khan, another sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent

Toab Khan, Advisory Editor and Borhan Ahmed, Executive Editor of The Daily Janakantha, were arrested yesterday afternoon from the Motijheel office of the newspaper and sent to the Dhaka Central Jail after court refused them bail.

Both the journalists were charged under Section 295A of the Bangladesh Penal Code (BPC) for having allegedly defamed religious sentiments of the people.

Under the same charge, warrants of arrest were also issued against two other journalists of the daily — Atiqullah Khan Masud, Editor and A T M Shamsuddin, Assistant Editor — who were yet to be arrested. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka is-

sued the warrants against the four journalists yesterday at 12:30 pm following a complaint filed by Nurul Alam, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the Motijheel Police Station. The journalists were accused of publishing a post-editorial in the Janakantha on May 12 last which, according to the complaint, hurt the religious sentiments of the Muslims.

If proved guilty, the accused face a maximum imprisonment of two years or fine, or both. According to eye witnesses, a large contingent of police cordoned the Janakantha office building at 55 Motijheel Commercial Area soon after noon.

See Page 12 Col 4



Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali (R) looks on as Khandakar Delwar Hussain, Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad (C) extends an appreciative hand to his opposition counterpart Mohammad Nasim after the latter addressed The Daily Star dialogue on "Development Challenges Facing South Asia" in the city yesterday. — Star photo

The Daily Star dialogue on S. Asia's challenges Human development comes first

By Staff Correspondent

In a remarkable atmosphere of consensus, both Treasury and Opposition bench MPs agreed on the urgency of accelerating the pace of human development in Bangladesh and the countries of the South Asian region.

At a time when Parliament is facing an impasse, MPs from the major parties gathered for a dialogue on 'Development Challenges for South Asia' organised by The Daily Star at the NEC auditorium yesterday.

The keynote speaker was Dr Mahbubul Huq, Author of the Human Development Report and Special Advisor to the UNDP Administrator, New York.

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razzak Ali was the chief guest while Khandakar Delwar Hussain, Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad and Mohammad Nasim, Chief Whip of the Opposition, were the two special guests.

About 30 MPs from the Opposition and Treasury benches and over 100 distinguished guests including lawyers, educationists, social workers and UN personnel attended the three-hour long dialogue.

"Development challenges in South Asia, particularly in Bangladesh, are unique in na-

ture. We must allow the growth of a stable democratic system for ensuring political stability for economic progress," said Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali.

"The most vital aspects of development lie with the people of their own country. We have to find out our solutions for progress and development through discussion in Parliament."

Shaikh Razzak Ali said the development challenges confronting South Asia were more complex in nature than those

of the developed countries. He said countries of the region should address themselves to the task of poverty alleviation, human resources development, political and social stability and undertake well-defined fiscal policies.

"It is important to work for avoiding wastage of resources in unproductive sectors, a changed attitude of bureaucracy and growth of a healthy system for development."

The Speaker said it was important to have a strong political will and national vision in order to attain sustainable growth and meet the growing challenges confronting the region. Parliamentarians who participated in the dialogue included BNP Whips Mahbubul Alam Tara and Ashraf Hussain, Abdur Rab Chowdhury, Azizur Rahman Chowdhury, Col(Rtd) Shaukat Ali, Farida Hossain, LK Siddiqui, Salima Rahman, Matta Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, A Matin Khasru, Roushan Ara Hena, Abul Hassan Chowdhury, Sajahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Osman Ghani Khan, Abu Yusuf Md Khalilur Rahman, Begum Shamsunnahar Khawja Ahsanullah and Sheikh Anwar Ali.

Besides, the Prokrichi members will also observe their planned three-day strike beginning on June 14.

See Page 12 Col 3

Prokrichi strike June 11

By Staff Correspondent

Members of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council will observe a three-and-a-half hours strike on June 11 protesting the transfer order against one of its central leaders.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Prokrichi at the Krishibid Institution, yesterday.

The villages of Toez and Irianda were nearly totally destroyed Monday after an earthquake measuring six on the open-ended Richter Scale set off a series of landslides off the Nevado De Hikla volcano along the Paez river.

The river overran its banks in several areas, sending a stream of boulders and mud rushing into villages, burying homes and cars. Avalanches also partially blocked the Paez river with boulders an branches, causing floods in the little that was left of Irianda and Toez.

More aftershocks rumbled late Tuesday in the region. A hilltop seminary was the only building left standing in Irianda, father Garcia said.

destroyed roads and bridges and the remoteness of the area made accurate assessments difficult, police said.

President Cesar Gaviria and several cabinet ministers were to visit the disaster area today, the President's office said.

The villages of Toez and Irianda were nearly totally destroyed Monday after an earthquake measuring six on the open-ended Richter Scale set off a series of landslides off the Nevado De Hikla volcano along the Paez river.

The river overran its banks in several areas, sending a stream of boulders and mud rushing into villages, burying homes and cars. Avalanches also partially blocked the Paez river with boulders an branches, causing floods in the little that was left of Irianda and Toez.

More aftershocks rumbled late Tuesday in the region. A hilltop seminary was the only building left standing in Irianda, father Garcia said.

Destroyed roads and bridges and the remoteness of the area made accurate assessments difficult, police said.

President Cesar Gaviria and several cabinet ministers were to visit the disaster area today, the President's office said.

The villages of Toez and Irianda were nearly totally destroyed Monday after an earthquake measuring six on the open-ended Richter Scale set off a series of landslides off the Nevado De Hikla volcano along the Paez river.

The river overran its banks in several areas, sending a stream of boulders and mud rushing into villages, burying homes and cars. Avalanches also partially blocked the Paez river with boulders an branches, causing floods in the little that was left of Irianda and Toez.

More aftershocks rumbled late Tuesday in the region. A hilltop seminary was the only building left standing in Irianda, father Garcia said.

Destroyed roads and bridges and the remoteness of the area made accurate assessments difficult, police said.

President Cesar Gaviria and several cabinet ministers were to visit the disaster area today, the President's office said.

The villages of Toez and Irianda were nearly totally destroyed Monday after an earthquake measuring six on the open-ended Richter Scale set off a series of landslides off the Nevado De Hikla volcano along the Paez river.

The river overran its banks in several areas, sending a stream of boulders and mud rushing into villages, burying homes and cars. Avalanches also partially blocked the Paez river with boulders an branches, causing floods in the little that was left of Irianda and Toez.

More aftershocks rumbled late Tuesday in the region. A hilltop seminary was the only building left standing in Irianda, father Garcia said.

Destroyed roads and bridges and the remoteness of the area made accurate assessments difficult, police said.

DU budget today

By Staff Correspondent

The Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, Professor Emajuddin Ahmed has appealed to the government to allocate Tk 33 crore more for development of the DU through the University Grants Commission.

The annual budget of the university for the year '94-95 is likely to be placed today.

Inaugurating the annual general meeting of the DU Senate yesterday afternoon, the VC said "to improve and modernise the educational facilities a lot of money is required." He stressed the need for improving the DU laboratories, the central library, and DU medical centre.

See Page 12 Col 7

7 killed in Magura road accident

MAGURA, June 8: Seven people were killed and 5 injured as a truck rammied and smashed a tempo on the Magura-Kamarkhal road at 10 tonight, reports UNB.

Witnesses and hospital sources said the tempo carrying 11 passengers was going from Magura to Kamarkhal when a speeding truck from the opposite direction hit it at Majali village.

Seven of the tempo passengers died instantly on the spot. Five others, including the tempo driver, were admitted to Magura Hospital with serious injuries.

Identities of the victims could not be known immediately.

Burglars ransack 3 Civil Aviation Ministry rooms

By Staff Correspondent

Burglars broke into three rooms of the Civil Aviation Ministry in the well-protected Bangladesh Secretariat sometime between late Tuesday night and the early hours of Wednesday.

The rooms included those of the State Minister for Civil Aviation, Abdul Mannan and Secretary Nuruddin al Masud.

The burglars ransacked papers and documents, but surprisingly took nothing except a VCR from the room of the State Minister.

A case has been lodge with Ramna police but no suspect was arrested till the filing of this report late last night.

A pro-people development model is working: Saifur

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday reiterated the government's strong commitment to implement a pro-people, pro-poor, pro-women and pro-environment development model in the country.

"People should be at the centre of all development

models, as abstract and uncaring development is no development at all," he maintained while releasing the UNDP's Human Development Report for the Asian region at the Sasakawa auditorium (ICDDR,B). "Without poverty reduction there cannot be

See Page 12 Col 7

Landslides by tremor kill hundreds in Colombia

BOGOTA, June 8: Hundreds of people were missing and feared dead today after landslides prompted by Colombia's worst earthquake in almost 40 years wiped out two towns in the southwest of the country, reports AFP.

Police, radio stations and other sources in the mountainous Cauca and Huila regions late Tuesday put the combined death toll from Monday's disaster at 250 with some 500 missing.

Officials said the disaster left 2,000 people homeless. Earlier Tuesday, police said 65 people had died in Toez while a ham radio operator quoting Father Mario Garcia, a Roman Catholic priest in Irianda, reported 150 people had died there but this could not be immediately confirmed.

In Mosoco, Roman Catholic nuns told reporters that some 80 people were killed and 20 others were missing.

Destroyed roads and bridges and the remoteness of the area made accurate assessments difficult, police said.

The Clintons' romantic stroll

PARIS, June 8: Romance perfumed the air, and the middle-aged American couple, Bill and Hillary Clinton, just couldn't resist, reports AP.

So there they were after midnight, strolling along the Pont des Arts, a few stolen moments together on a wooden footbridge with a view of the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral.

And then off to the Louvre, its glowing glass pyramid surrounded by fountains shooting skyward.

Ah, Paris! If only that 20-car motorcade weren't idling nearby.

Mrs. Clinton seemed to be thinking along those lines earlier Tuesday when she recalled the days when she and her husband could wander in Paris freely.

Complaining about being kept on "a very short leash," See Page 12 Col 2

Advertisement for World Cup USA94 quiz. Features the Statue of Liberty, a plane, and various prizes like a TV, a recorder, and a light bulb. Text: And now for the BIGGEST The Daily Star Quiz World Cup USA94. Bumper Prize. Fantastic chance for you to be at the World Cup Final at Los Angeles, USA. Tk. 1,25,000—worth Bumper Prize includes an Economy Class return Dhaka-Los Angeles-Dhaka air ticket, a ringside ticket to the final at Rose Bowl (Los Angeles) and US\$ 1000.—as living expenses. You may also win the following regular prizes: Powervision CTV 21", Philips BW TV 17", Philips Bubs, Turbo Stereo Recorder. All prizes courtesy Transcom Electronics Limited. Get your copy of The Daily Star now. You may send as many entries as you wish.