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NEWS BRIEFS

PM releases stamps
on World Cup '94

Bangladesh Post Office yesterday issued a set of two commemorative postage stamps and a first day cover on the occasion of the World Cup '94. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally released the stamps of Tk 20 each with a Gutter and first day cover valued Tk 5, in a simple ceremony at her Hare Road office was also used, reports UNB.

DCC budget today

Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif will announce the budget of the corporation for the fiscal year 1994-95 today. The budget will be announced at the Sohag Community centre at 11:30 am, reports UNB.

DUTA demands
security for Sharif

By Staff Correspondent
Prof Khandaker Nizam Uddin and Dr Arefeen Siddiq, acting president and general secretary of the Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) respectively, condemned the bomb attack on the residence of Dr Ahmad Sharif. In a joint statement yesterday they demanded immediate security arrangement for the safety of Dr Sharif and his family.

Air chief back home

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Alif Hossain Choudhury returned home Thursday night after a fortnight-long official visit to the USA. During his stay in USA, Air Vice Marshal Choudhury attended the Third Pacific Air Chiefs' Conference held in Washington DC, reports BSS.

Glitzy gala marks World Cup opening

Football proper comes to Americans

CHICAGO, June 17: With much of the planet watching, defending champion Germany took on underdog Bolivia today to kick off the World Cup, reports AP.

A four-year buildup, scores of qualifying matches and last-minute lineup tinkering by the 24 national teams preceded the world's biggest sports event, being held on unfamiliar territory in nine US cities.

An estimated 750 million people in some 180 countries tuned in for the first game in the month-long world championship. World Cup organisers said.

Guests among the sellout crowd at Soldier Field in Chicago included US President Bill Clinton, Germany's soccer fan Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

"Our time has come," chief US organiser Alan Rothenberg told the crowd during a colourful opening ceremony featuring pop music and native dances of the team's countries.

Clinton, in a brief message, welcomed the World Cup to the United States.

No defending champion has ever won the opening match, but Germany have lost only one of their 12 openers — against Algeria, 2-1, in Spain in 1982.

Spain were favoured against South Korea in the other clash

WorldCupUSA94



on the 52-game tournament's opening day, set to start at 6:30 pm (2330 GMT) in Dallas.

Germany are seeking to become the first nation to win the World Cup four times. Germany, Brazil, and Italy have won the most coveted title in

sports three times.

The Germans can also become the first nation to repeat as champions since Brazil in 1962.

Germany, which won in 1954, 1974, and 1990, are the dominating power of the last two decades. They reached the finals in four of the last five tournaments, with two titles and two runnerup finishes.

Bolivia went into their first World Cup finals since 1950 with no win and no goal on their record.

Italy, Ireland, the United States, Switzerland, Romania and Colombia got their final practices before Saturday's three games.

Italy, one of three teams shooting for a record fourth World Cup title, will test their potential against Ireland, a tough, physical opponent, at Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ.

Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi and his Irish counterpart, Jack Charlton, both said a good start

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Balloons rise at the start of the opening ceremonies for the 15th World Cup yesterday at Soldier Field in Chicago. The opening match between world-champion Germany and Bolivia began immediately after the ceremonies. — AFP photo

Teachers postpone strike

By Staff Correspondent

Teachers of non-government schools and colleges have postponed their indefinite strike, sit-in and fast unto death programmes and decided to resume their duties by June 19 to 25.

The teachers took the decision at the request of Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

The decision was announced by leaders of the Teachers' Central Action Liaison Committee yesterday afternoon in front of Jatiya Press Club where teachers were on fast for the third day.

Earlier, a government-teachers negotiation on the latter's demands ended in failure on Thursday night.

Teachers and employees of some 11,000 non-government schools and colleges began an indefinite strike on April 18 last to press home a four-point

demand including 100 per cent government grant for their basic salaries. Later, on June 11, the striking teachers started an indefinite sit-in in front of the Jatiya Press Club. Then they went on a 'fast unto death' on Wednesday.

Before postponing the strike and the fasting programmes, the teachers' leaders announced a series of fresh protest programmes including boycott of election duties under the BNP government.

The 53-hour fasting by the teachers ended as Sheikh Hasina offered water two teachers — S M Kader of Borguna and Abdul Kader of Faridpur — at 4-40 pm.

Earlier, she urged the striking teachers to postpone their programme, assuring that the Opposition would take up the teachers' agitation to carry it towards a logical end.

"I earnestly request you to postpone the sit-in and the

fast unto death programmes, return to your working places and resume your duties", the Opposition leader said.

Hasina further said that the thana and district level activists of the opposition parties would back the teachers' next course of agitation.

The AL chief reiterated that if voted to power, her party would accept the non-government teachers' logical demands including raising the government grant for them from the existing 70 per cent to 100 per cent.

Later, the liaison committee coordinator Quazi Faruque Ahmed announced that the non-government teachers would continue their agitation and also perform their duties at their respective schools and colleges.

Further programmes would be announced on June 30, he said.

TONIGHT'S WORLD CUP
MATCHES ON BTV

Group A : USA vs Switzerland 21:30 (BST)
Group E : Italy vs Ireland 02:00 (BST)
Group A : Colombia vs Romania 05:30 (BST)

Speaker to
sit with
Opposition
Sunday

By Asiuzzaman

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali will resume his efforts to bring the Opposition parties back to the House, Parliament sources said.

The Speaker will sit with the Opposition leaders Sunday afternoon, the sources said, declining to name with whom he will hold talks.

Shaikh Razzak Ali, now in Khulna, when contacted over telephone confirmed the "possibility" of a meeting on Sunday, without elaborating.

"I will not elaborate on the matter unless it takes a shape," the Speaker told The Daily Star.

"I told you earlier that it will take some time as the situation reached a certain level."

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PM asks students
to maintain peace

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the students to maintain peaceful academic atmosphere in their respective institutions to ensure proper education, reports UNB.

"All of you have to remain alert about any evil attempts by vested quarters to vitiate the campus atmosphere... engage yourself in the pursuit of knowledge and bring good results through sincere study," she said.

Begum Zia said the government has given highest budgetary allocation to education for the development of human resources to accelerate the pace of development and to alleviate poverty.

The Prime Minister was addressing a gathering of newly elected office-bearers of five city colleges at her Hare Road office last night.

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of the BNP, won the college union

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11 killed as truck falls
into ditch in Tangail

Eleven people were killed and three injured at early hours yesterday when a cement laden truck fell into a roadside ditch on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Shuvulla, near Tangail town.

When contacted by phone, Police Super of Tangail told UNB yesterday evening that the accident occurred at about 2 am and all the victims died on the spot as cement bags fell on them.

He said the truck was carrying 25 people, mostly rickshaw-pullers and day labourers, who were on their way home from Dhaka.

So far, seven of the bodies were identified, the SP added. They are: Ahalu, son of Somotullah Sheikh of village Charalkandi, Melandaha thana, Jamalpur, a woman identified as mother of Montu, Shah Alam and Mojiron, 40, all three of village Dudiagachha, Madarganj, Jamalpur; Shahid, village Baujan, Madhupur, Tangail; Kuddus and Monser of village Pathalia, Madhupur, Tangail.

The bodies were sent to the Tangail Sadar Hospital for post mortem while the three injured were admitted to Kumudini Hospital at Mirzapur.

Driver of the truck fled the scene soon after the accident.

3 killed in Savar

Another report says: Three people were killed and 40 others injured, nine seriously, when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch on Dhaka-Aricha highway yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the Dhaka-bound luxury coach from Barisal plunged into the 10 feet deep dry ditch after it dashed a roadside tree while giving side to a truck rushing from behind.

The accident occurred at about 10 am at a point between Barabaria and Batulla in Dhamrai thana.

Abdus Salam (40), a passenger, died on the spot. Two others breathed their last on way to hospital but their identity could not be immediately known.

The injured passengers were sent to Manikganj Sadar Hospital and different hospitals in the capital.

Police seized the bus but the driver was absconding.

Torrential rain
allover

By Staff Correspondent

As the monsoon sets in, most of the districts of the country yesterday experienced torrential rainfall.

A minor girl was killed and five others were injured in a house collapse caused by heavy rainfall in Cox's Bazar. Many areas of the district went under water.

Many places of Chittagong were also flooded and road communication in the division was affected as the rainfall continued for the last three days.

In the capital, rain paralysed normal life for the best part of the day yesterday. The Met Office recorded 22mm rain fall in the city from 6 am to 6 pm.

Although the rainy season began Wednesday according to the calendar, the sky over the capital remained cloudy. The city also experienced scattered rainfall during the last three days.

The Met Office recorded rainfall in most of the districts yesterday during 6am to 6pm. The highest among of 97mm was recorded in Teknaf.

Cox's Bazar which experienced

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Thai FM in city to
attend today's
jt body meet

Foreign Minister of Thailand Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri arrived in Dhaka yesterday evening to attend the fifth session of the joint commission of cooperation between Bangladesh and Thailand, reports BSS.

"I hope the talks here will be very successful" he told newsmen on arrival at the airport.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman received the Thai Foreign Minister at the airport.

Soonsiri said, it is his first visit to Bangladesh and added that he was looking forward to this visit for talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Rahman.

He said two sides will discuss political and economic issues with particular stress on trade and economic cooperation during the joint commission meeting.

Director General in the Foreign Ministry Kazi Anwarul Masud, Bangladesh ambassador to Thailand Major General (Retd) M. Mannaf and Thai ambassador in Bangladesh Sunthorn Vidhyemeth were present at the airport to receive

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And now, a DV-1
'surcharge'!

By Masud Hasan Khan

The American DV-1 Immigration visa lottery has become a money-making affair for a section of dishonest postal department employees at the GPO in the capital.

They are realising thousands of taka everyday from the people who have been thronging the GPO to post their visa applications in their frenzied bid for a better life in the US.

During a visit to the GPO on Thursday, this correspondent found most of the postal department employees at the 16 special counters do not return the change to their clients who usually give a 20-Taka note or 10-Taka and 5-Taka notes to pay Taka 18 as

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In the mad rush to meet the June 30 deadline for the US DV-1 visa, thousands wait their turns before the GPO counters daily. — Star photo



Dear Readers: The Daily Star World Cup Special, a 24-page full colour stitched tabloid with glossy cover, goes on sale today. The issue, a collector's item, contains vital facts, figures, features, articles, anecdotes and many photographs exclusively acquired by The Daily Star. This bargain edition is priced at Tk. 10 only, not including the price of Tk. 4 for the normal issue. For additional copies please contact your newsagent.

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