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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 SharifBy Staff Correspondent
Prof Khandaker Nizam Uddin and Dr Areef 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 Altaf 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.

Glitz 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.

WorldCupUSA94



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

Germany are seeking to be-

come 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 be-
come 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.

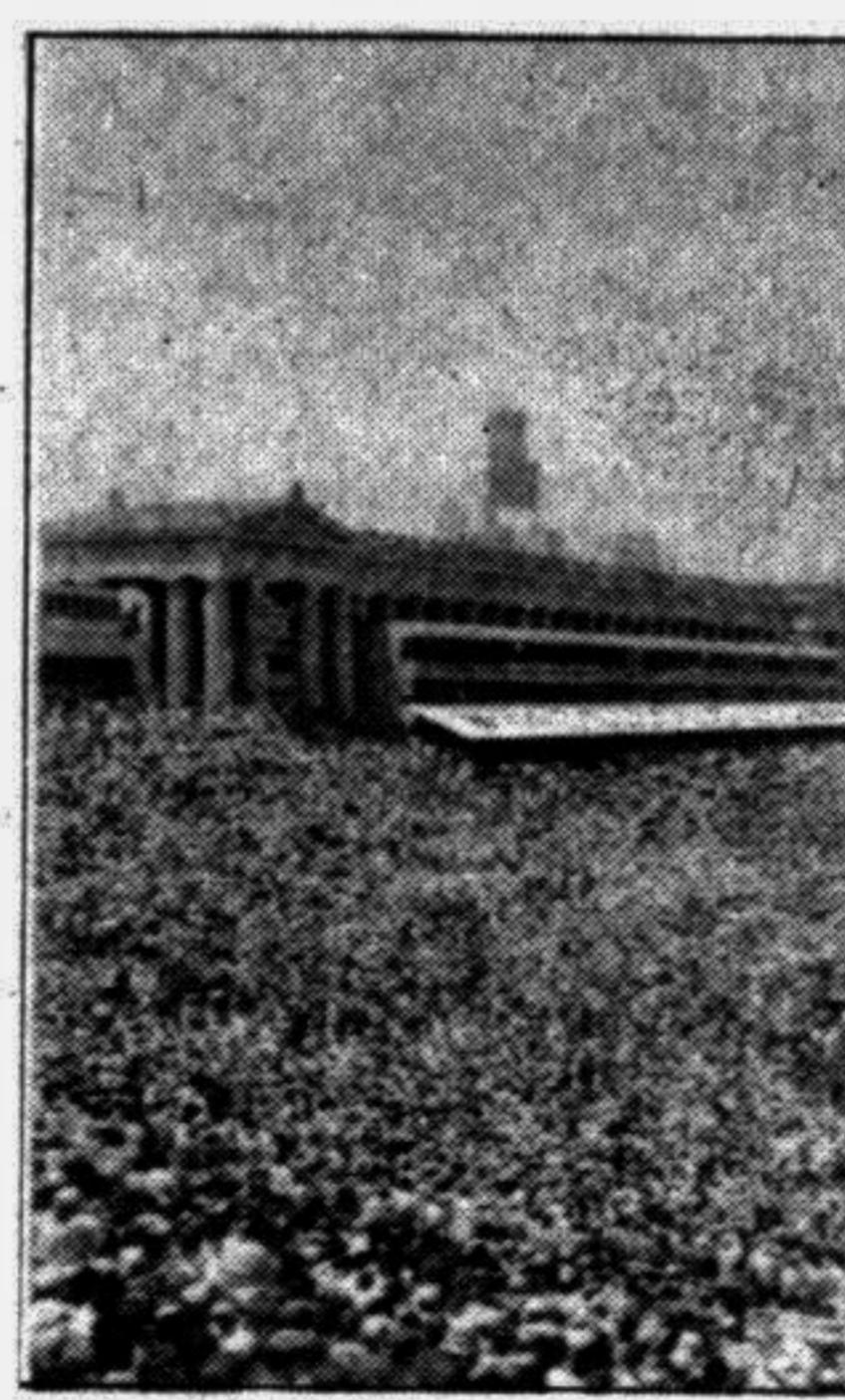
Bolivia went into their first World Cup finals since 1950 with no win and no goal on their record.

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

Speaker to
sit with
Opposition
SundayBy 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 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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Sheikh Hasina helping an elderly teacher with a glass of water to end their fast unto death programme in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Teachers postpone strike

By Staff Correspondent

Teachers of non-govern-
ment schools and colleges
have postponed their indefi-
nite strike, sit-in and fast unto
death programmes and de-
cided to resume their duties
by June 19 to 25.The teachers took the de-
cision at the request of Leader of
the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief
Sheikh Hasina yesterday.The decision was an-
nounced by leaders of the
Teachers' Central Action Lija-
son 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
latters' 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-pointfast 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 ac-
tivists of the opposition parties
would back the teachers next
course of agitation.Before postponing the
strike and the fasting pro-
grammes, the teachers' lead-
ers 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 strik-
ing teachers to postpone their
programme, assuring 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.Thai FM in city to
attend today's
jt body meetForeign Minister of Thai-
land Squadron Leader Prasong
Soonsiri arrived in Dhaka yester-
day evening to attend the fifth session of the joint com-
mission of cooperation between
Bangladesh and Thailand.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 6 am to 6 pm.
The highest among of 97mm
was recorded in Teknaf.Cox's Bazar which experi-
enced

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And now, a DV-1
'surcharge'!

By Masud Hasan Khan

The American DV-1 immi-
gration visa lottery has become
a money-making affair for a
section of dishonest postal de-
partment employees at the GPO in the capital.They are realising thousands
of taka everyday from the
people who have been
stronging 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 de-
partment 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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