

Inside Today

Article

The Economics of Crime and Punishment

by Abdul Bayes
Page 4

International

Pakistan denies involvement in plutonium smuggling



Gorbachev to form new party
Page 5

Business

India okays \$5b foreign investment

China opposes US plan to push world labour rights
Pages 6, 7

Rising Star

The Rise and Fall of the Samurai; The Never Ending Taxi Ride; Life is madness
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



A Musical Legacy
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Medical check-up

Health examination for those who will go to Malaysia for employment starts at the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital today. The hospital will conduct this examination in accordance with a directive from the government. Persons going to Malaysia for employment have been asked to contact the hospital for their medical check-up, reports BSS.

Ministry of Ethnic Affairs created Kumaratunga's olive branch to Tigers

COLOMBO, Aug 19: Determined to end a brutal ethnic war, Sri Lanka's new prime minister, Chandrika Kumaratunga, today created a ministry of ethnic affairs and promised early talks with separatist rebels and minority leaders, reports AP.

"We have stretched our hand of friendship and hope that the Tamil Tigers... will take it and come for discussion with us and re-enter the democratic process," Kumaratunga told a news conference a few hours after taking office as prime minister.

"We are very happy that she is willing to talk to us. We are also willing," the guerillas said in a statement issued in London.

It was the first public reaction by Tamil rebels to the victory of the Peoples' Alliance in Tuesday's general elections.

The 11-year-war, which has left 34,000 people dead, forces the government to spend 20 per cent of the country's annual budget on defense.

Rebels are demanding a homeland in the north and east of Sri Lanka, where

Sinhalese Buddhists are a majority and Hindu Tamils form seven per cent of the 17 million population. The Tamils complain of discrimination in jobs and education.

Kumaratunga, who retained the important portfolio of ethnic affairs and national integration, said her government would like to create a 'society where political intimidation, terror and violence will be eliminated.'

But to make a peace deal she will have to negotiate with the defeated United National Party.

See Page 12 Col 2



A Buddhist monk pours blessed water yesterday over the hands of new Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga, leader of the Peoples' Alliance (PA), during a Buddhist ritual performed after the swearing-in of the new Prime Minister in Colombo. — AFP photo

Another victim of N'ganj clash dies at DMCH

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Aug 19: After a day of uneasy calm, this river port town turned tense again today following the death of another victim of the clashes between two rival groups of the Awami League.

Mohammad Sohel, 35, who was injured on Tuesday, died late last night at Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was under treatment.

Sohel, a businessman, had no political identity. The death toll in the clashes that first broke out on August 15 has now risen to two. One Shamsul Alam killed on the first day.

Several hundred people brought out a procession with

See Page 12 Col 8

Simplification of foreign trade rules underway

By Special Correspondent

The report containing recommendations to simplify and modernise the procedures followed in the country's foreign trade is now being scrutinised by the concerned authorities of the government.

A task force, constituted under the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC), prepared the draft suggesting new rules and procedures for the country's import and export trade.

According to a relevant source, the task force has recommended doing away with almost half of the existing cumbersome procedure in foreign trade to make it simpler.

The new procedure suggested by the task force would

modernise the system and make it consistent with those of the other countries," said the source. "Our purpose is to save time in procedural matters to help increase the volume of foreign trade."

The traders have been complaining for long that the country's export and import business are still being carried out under lengthy, outdated procedures that only hamper growth in foreign trade.

For opening a letter of credit and to release consignment at the ports, traders often have to experience a lot of hardship and incur considerable losses due to payment of high demurrages for procedural delays.

See Page 12 Col 7

AL MP Roushan Ali dead

By Staff Correspondent

Veteran Awami League leader and Member of Parliament Roushan Ali died of heart attack at the Jessore General Hospital early Friday. He was 75.

Roushan Ali, who was suffering from diabetes, blood pressure and heart disease for a long time, was rushed to hospital at around 11-30 Thursday night where he died at 1.20 am, our Jessore correspondent quoting hospital sources said.

An active organiser of the country's Liberation War, Ali was elected Member of then Pakistan National Assembly (MNA) on Awami League ticket in 1970. He was elected MP from the same seat in 1973 and 1991. He was also appointed Governor under

See Page 12 Col 1

JU VC convenes meet to discuss situation

By Staff Correspondent

The Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University (JU) has convened a meeting at his office today to discuss the situation on the campus.

Provosts, house tutors and staff of all residential halls of the university are likely to attend the meeting that might discuss the reported mysterious death of an outsider in a hall, according to university sources.

The provost of Maulana Bhasani Hall, where the outsider—Quamrul Islam—was reportedly beaten to death by some students Tuesday night, has submitted a report on the issue to the VC, Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury.

The report said it is learnt that an outsider was allegedly murdered in Maulana Bhasani Hall, but did not mention the name of the victim. The report might be placed in today's

See Page 12 Col 7

Student stabbed to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

A college student, Syed Mohammad Miraj, 23, was stabbed to death at Shaorapara in the city last night.

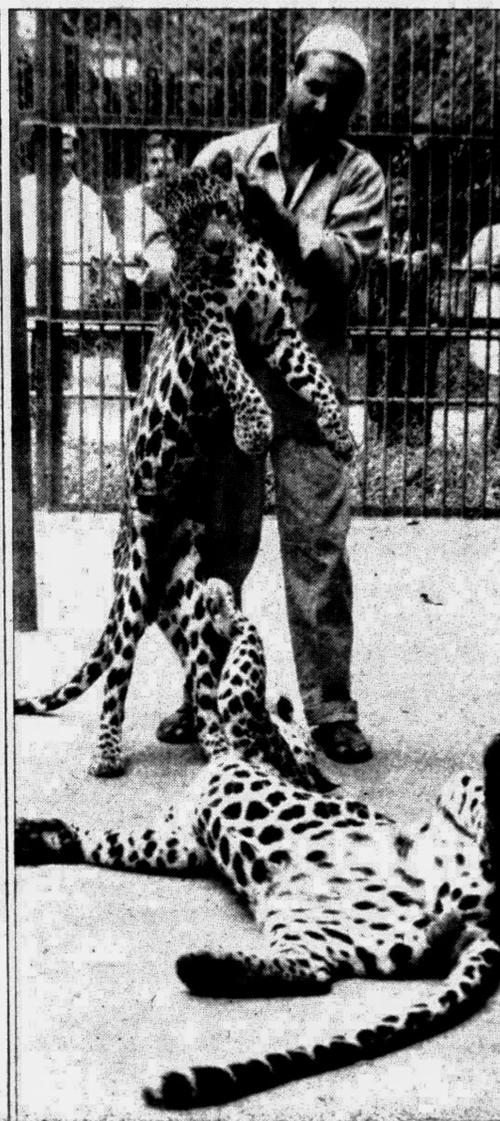
Some youngsters held Miraj on the road near his house and stabbed him fatally.

They also stabbed a Dhaka WASA staff, Amzad Khan, who went to save Miraj.

Miraj was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

Miraj, son of a retired police officer, Syed Sultan Ahmed, was a BA student of Barisal Government College. Recently, he came to Dhaka where his parents live.

It is believed Miraj was murdered because of previous enmity. But no details were available immediately. No case was lodged with police until the filing of this report at 11:30 last night.



Yad Ali, the handler of these two leopards, caught six years ago in the Mymensingh region, demonstrates his affinity with the large cats, much to the amusement of the visitors to the Mirpur Zoo in the city. — Star photo by Enamul Huq

An appeal in earnest

By Staff Correspondent

Madame Laurence Ndayaye, widow of late Melchior Ntaryamira, President of Burundi who was killed last April, has appealed to the world community to help halt the process of genocide and ethnic massacre in her country and neighbouring Rwanda.

In a faxed appeal to the international community, a copy of which was sent yesterday to Grameen Bank founder Professor Muhammad Yunus and made available to The Daily

Star, she said: "Within six months Burundi has unexpectedly lost, in succession, two presidents — Melchior Ntaryamira on October 21, 1993 and Cyprien Ntaryamira on April 6, 1994. In addition, the latter was in the company of (President) Juvénal Habyarimana of Rwanda who also died."

"Ever since, the socio-political situation of Burundi has remained confused and pre-

See Page 12 Col 7

People will again vote for BNP, says Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia expressed her confidence that the people would again give their verdict in favour of the BNP because of its development work, reports UNB.

"The people have understood that the BNP's politics is aimed at development, progress and welfare of commonman," she said addressing the newcomers to the party at her Hare Road office last night.

About 2,000 people from opposition parties, including leaders of the Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, JSD and a number of lawyers and union parishad chairmen of Noakhali district joined the BNP yesterday.

Presided over by Noakhali See Page 12 Col 7

Next informal talks with Shantibahini on Aug 28

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 19: The leaders of the outlawed Shantibahini and the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Hill Tracts Affairs will meet for the third round of informal talks on August 28 at Dudukchhari in Khagrachhari district, according to a source.

The talks aim at paving the way for a crucial dialogue between the nine-member parliamentary committee headed by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed and the Shantibahini leaders for a political settlement of the long-drawn CHT issue.

The informal talks will be attended by four members of the sub-committee — Rashed Khan Menon, Kalparanjan Chakma, Shahjahan Chowdhury and Md Shahjahan. The four-member Shantibahini team, led by Shantu Larma, president of the Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), will

See Page 12 Col 5

Mahayuddin new Malaysian envoy

By Staff Correspondent

Malaysia has proposed Mahayuddin Bin Abd-Rahman as its new High Commissioner to Bangladesh, according to sources.

He would be replacing outgoing High Commissioner Ahmed Fuzi Bin-Haji Abdul Razak who is leaving next month.

The new High Commissioner is a career diplomat and has served in important positions. He was Malaysia's Ambassador to Libya. He is presently serving as his country's envoy to Paris.

Announcement

The Daily Star Special Supplement on Banking will now be published on Thursday, August 25, instead of Saturday, August 20, 1994.

This supplement will contain exclusive interviews of the Minister for Finance M Saifur Rahman and Governor of Bangladesh Bank and will also carry writings from MDs of private and nationalised Banks of the country.

Worthwhile contributions from our readers, patrons and experts will be accepted for publication in this issue till 2 pm, Thursday, August 23, 1994.

Inconveniences caused to our esteemed patrons for the delay are regretted.

Management

When the hopes turn brown



For want of sufficient rainfall the Aman paddy crop has been badly affected in Singair thana of Manikganj district this season. — Star photo

by Inam Ahmed back from Singair

The paddy plants have turned brown and sway unpromisingly in the wind. Cattle graze in the fields, but the farmers do not even feel the urge to shoo them away. Because they know the Aman plants will not bear any sheaf this year.

In the villages of Singair thana of Manikganj only some 25 km from the city, the farmers are witnessing the ravages of the drought — helpless and frustrated.

Their agony has been escalated by another problem — damming of a channel — the Mahakandi — at Manikganj that used to bring in water from the rivers.

Most of the about 43,000 acres of crop fields in Singair are now virtually dry. The Aman plants grew two to three feet tall, but then they went brown as the much needed rain did not come.

Khalil Miah of Gobdar village said, "In other years, these fields were under waist deep water, this season showing only the top of the paddy plants. But this time, not even an inch of water is there."

Khalil Miah's five bighas of Aman paddy have virtually withered in the sun.

Abdur Rashid of Binodpur village does not know how he will survive the next few

See Page 12 Col 8

IBM Branch Office has Moved to Pacific Center

Please Contact us at Our New Address

Old Address

~~IBM World Trade Corporation
122-124 Motijheel C/A
Chamber Building, 5th Floor
Dhaka-1000
Tel: 241133, 232845, 242598, 231831
Fax: 880-2-863511~~

New Address

IBM World Trade Corporation
14 Mohakhali C/A
Pacific Center, 6th Floor
Dhaka-1212
Tel: 889783, 889784, 889785, 889786
Fax: 880-2-889788