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OF DIFFERENT TYPES.

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STOCK MARKET

769.23 (+0.11%) Market capitalisation Tk Turnover in volume Turnover in value Tk 13.23 million

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Travel & Tourism

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NEWS BRIEFS

Hajj delegation leaves tomorrow

Religious Affairs Minister M Keramat Ali will lead a fourmember Bangladesh Hajj delegation, scheduled to leave in Dhaka for Saudi Arabia tomorrow. The delegation that in cludes MPs Advocate Khairul Enam. Kazi Golam Murshed and Mohmmad Shahidul Islam will stay in Saudi Arabia till May 15. reports UNB.

Sunstroke claims 2

PABNA, Apr 29: Two elderly men died from sunstroke in Sadar thana of the district today, family sources said. The victims were identified as lman Mian. 60. of Gopalpur and Jabbar Khan, 55, of Raninagar village. Iman Mian fainted at his residence this afternoon. Later on, he was sent to Sadar Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead. Jabbar Khan fell sick while he was working at a field. He died on the spot, reports UNB.

PCJSS extends

ceasefire KHAGRACHHARI, Apr 29: The Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the political umbrella of Shantibahini, has agreed to extend the duration of ceasefire with the government till May 25 The PCJSS's current ceasefire with the government expires tomorrow. Agreeing today to further extend the ceasefire at the request of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Liaison Committee. the PCJSS demanded unconditional release of 15 of their members within May 15. reports UNB.

Beijing Food Festival in city

"Beijing Food Festival," a long cherished dream of the connoisseur of authentic Chinese food has finally come to the town. Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Bangladesh Zhang Xujiang inaugurated the fortnight long festival at the Bithika Restaurant of the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday evening, reports BSS.

Offer of dialogue & resignation 30 days ahead of polls renewed

Khaleda invites Opposition to face electoral battle

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia vesterday renewed her offer to step down from power 30 days ahead of elections and invited the Opposition to face the electoral battle, reports UNB.

"We have trust and confidence in the people, and have agreed to resign 30 days before the elections for the greater interest of democracy . If you have courage, take up the challenge," she told her political adversaries.

Begum Zia made the remarks while wrapping up the day-long Dhaka divisional representatives' conference of ated by them. he BNP at 30 Hare Road last

yesterday.

'903 industrial

units causing

pollution'

the city yesterday emphasised

the need for setting up more

environmentally sound indus-

tries, as well as for strictly en-

mental regulations to clean up

Referring that 903 indus-

trial units have already been

identified as causing pollution.

they called upon the authori-

ties to conduct an Environ-

mental impact Analysis (EIA)

and immediately install

effluent treatment plants in

ing 'The consultative seminar

on industrial EIAs and envi-

ronmental clearances in

Bangladesh' organised by the

Industrial EIA Practitioners

Association (IEPA) in Dhaka

vesterday morning at the WVA

the need for creating envi-

ronmental awareness and play-

ing the role of a watchdog to

help strict enforcement of the

existing environmental regula-

authorities should make it

mandatory for all new private

and public sector industries to

carry out ElAs before their in-

They emphasised that the

The speakers underscored

auditorium.

The speakers were address-

their units to stop pollution.

the environment of the coun-

try, reports BSS.

forcing the existing environ-

Speakers at a seminar in

In an oblique reference to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's demand for the government's resignation 90 days before elections. Begum Zia said: "There is no constitutional obligation to resign either 30 days or 90 days before elections, but we have agreed to resign before 30 days for the greater interest of maintaining the democratic pro-

The BNP chairperson again offered a dialogue with the Opposition to end the crisis which, she said, has been cre-

Come, let's move ahead

BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressed the Dhaka divi-

sional representatives conference of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in the city

COX'S BAZAR. Apr 29: Awa-

mi League Fresident Sheikh

Hasina today alleged that the

ruling party had appointed the

Chief Election Commissioner

(CEC) according to its choice

to keep the way open for

that it is not possible for them

to win the elections without

rigging. So, it has appointed

the CEC without consulting the

Opposition," she told a public

meeting at the Ukhia High

fer dialogue but they do not

consult the opposition parties

while going for an action," the

AL chief said, reacting to the

the government's reported of-

fer for dialogue to resolve the

political stalemate. Hasina said

the Prime Minister was only

trying to protect her chair for

she said: "This government has

violated the Constitution by not

accepting the resignation let-

ters of the opposition MPs.

They did it just to cling to

organised the meeting to

commemorate the people who

died in the April 29 cyclone

Ukhia thana Awami League

On the Speaker's ruling.

Questioning the sincerity of

appointment of the new CEC.

"The government often of-

"The ruling party knows

rigging, reports UNB.

School ground.

her own interest.

BNP has appointed its own

CEC to rig polls: Hasina

with democracy. There will be no gain in going back to autocracy." she said.

The Prime Minister expressed her determination to protect, at all cost, the democracy that was earned at the cost of the martyrs' blood.

"The BNP believes in democracy ... there is no alternative to election to go to power," she said, and asked her partymen to prepare for the coming elections. Begum Zia asked them to

work unitedly, saying that there was very little time for elections, but she did not mention any possible dates. "Shun all differences and conflict," she urged.

The BNP chairperson told her partymen that the next elections would be very significant and vital for the nation to protect the national independence and sovereignty.

Referring to the present political situation. Begum Zia said the three opposition political parties had joined hands to oust the government. But they have understood that it is not possible to oust the present democratic government by creating indiscipline.

"Now, their main objective is to obstruct the BNP from returning to power," she See Page 12 Col 7

Lesser leaders blame stalwarts

By Staff Correspondent

The grass-roots level leaders of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday gave vent to some of their grievances against the central leaders, minister and party MPs, alleging that the bigwigs often ignore the lesser leaders and the workers.

"The gap between the leaders and workers has widened and it is still widen-Prime Minister Begum Khaleda

He cautioned that if this gap is not narrowed down, the party might suffer a setback in the coming election.

A number of other leaders expressed similar views seeking the party chief's inter

See Page 12 Col 1

- PID photo

that devastated the coastal beli

ment for 'neglecting' relief and

rehabilitation in the cyclone

themselves." Hasina said

"They are still involved in cor

ruption and have created the

food and fertiliser crises to

make more money," she al-

bitterly criticised the ruling

party for its 'failure' to handle

the crisis of food and fertiliser

and check price spiral of other

fective and worthless govern-

ment ... It only knows rigging.

corruption and terrorism, not

welfare of the people," she

Mia Chowdhury, the meeting

was also addressed by Sajeda

Chowdhury, Ataur Rahman

Kaiser, Abul Hasnat Abdullah,

Syed Najibul Bashar Maijb

handari and Mosharraf Ho-

two public meetings - at the

Ramu High School ground and

at the Eidgah High School

Earlier, Hasina addressed

Presided over by Badsha

"It is an irresponsible, inef-

The Awami League chief

Hasina blamed the govern-

"Instead, they (government

four years ago.

battered areas.

essentials.

ing." One district unit leader was quoted as saying in presence of party Chairperson

vention in such a situation. More than 6,000 delegates. mostly leaders of district.

made to hold ishtiskhar prayers for rain in view of the countrywide drought and hotspell which has made normal life unbearable in the country reports BSS.

The prayers will be held ministers and leaders) were every day at 10 am from May 3 busy with making fortune for I in the National Eidgah under the management of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, an official handout said in Dhaka vesterday.

> have been requested to join the prayers to seek the blessings of the Almighty Allah to

in city

seven minutes yesterday after several days of a hot spell. It started raining at 5.34

The Met Office recorded

See Page 12 Col 4

BNP MP's son dies as rivals clash

By Staff Correspondent



between rival factions of the BNP in Narsingdi, wails over the lifeless body of her son. - Star photo

A ruling party MP's son was killed and at least 20 people were injured in clashes between the supporters of two BNP MPs in Narsingdi yester-

Masud, 25, son of Shamsuddin Ahmed, MP from Narsingdi-1, was shot dead by a group of armed men.

The killing triggered widespread violence in the area. Armed police reinforcement was called in from Dhaka. according to officials. Four of the injured, includ-

ing two policemen were brought to the city and admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. All the four were bullet-hit. According to witnesses and

Narsingdi police, the clash originated from an earlier incident which had taken place yesterday morning. Another son of Shamsuddin Ahmed. along with 10-12 young men had altegedly raided the house of Habibullah Bahar, 21, a student of the Narsingdi College.

near a pond a mile away, witnesses said. Habibullah was severely

leged. The parents and friends of Habibullah later rescued him

from the pond and informed police who sent him to the Sadar hospital.

reportedly armed, attacked those involved. Masud, a librarian, who was reportedly ignorant of the in-

hospital See Page 12 Col 6

Road accident in Narsingdi leaves 8 dead

NARASINGDI, Apr 29: At least eight people, including four of a family, were killed and 20 injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway Friday night, reports

The accident occurred at about 12:30 am at Narayanpur in Belabo thana when a minibus coming from Sylhet collided head-on with a truck, police and witnesses said.

Five of the dead were identified as Mohon, 48, his wife Rina, 38, elder sister Chhana Begum. 50, and her daughter Tani, 12, and driver of the minibus Masudur Rahman, 38.

They were returning home at Manohordi, from Sylhet after visiting the mazar of Hazrat Shahjalal, family sources said.

The other three victims could not be identified immediately. All of them died on the

Five of the injured were rushed to the Narsingdi sadar hospital in critical condition while several others were admitted to the Bhairab Thana Health Complex.

2 N'ganj pro-BNP activists killed in clash with AL From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 29: Two political activists were killed and more than 15 including a woman were injured when supporters of the BNP and the Awami League (AL) clashed at Pagla under Fatullah hana today.

The dead were identified as Humayun Kabir, a student of the Government Tolaram College and an activist of the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), and Abu Siddig Bhutto, a worker of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal, youth front of the BNP

IU closed sine die

KUSHTIA, Apr 29: The Islamic University (IU) was today declared closed sine die following Friday's killing of a guardian of an admission seeker on the campus during clashes between rival groups of students, reports UNB.

The university authorities announced the decision amidst mounting tension and asked the students to leave their respective hostels before 5 pm today.

Earlier, 11 students were arrested when police raided the hostels Friday night. All were said to be activists of the Islami Chhatra Shibir. Police also recovered one

ustol, a Chinese axe and three kirich' during the raid. See Page 12 Col 3

2 Shibir activists hurt in blast

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 29: Two Shibir activists were injured in bomb blasts during a clash with JCD activists at the Dakbungalow square this evening. The injured, who were ad-

mitted to the Sadar Hospital. later fled, hospital sources According to police, the

clash took place when the two rival student organisations brought out processions. The Shibir brought out a

procession to protest arrest of their leaders, while the JCD's rally was against the recent attack on the Speaker's house.

DU 'Kha' unit admission test on May 26 By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University au-

horities yesterday announced a fresh date for admission test of the first year honours classes under 'Kha' unit for the session 1994-95. The test will be held on

May 26 from 10 am to 12 noon, says a press release of the university The results of the admis-

sion test, held on April 21,

were cancelled following allegations of leakage of the question papers. A six-member probe body declared the admission test

null and void to "dispel doubts in public mind and maintain the propriety of the examination although the leakage of questions papers was not clearly evident.

get rid of the present situation created by the drought and the

The city dwellers experi

pm and continued till 5.41 pm, but was enough to bring some relief to the city

The Met Office forecast said, rain or thundershower

7-minute shower

enced light rains for only

dwellers.



LTTE downs plane: 52 die region following the end of the missile attack caused the air

It was the first time rebels

fighting for independence in northern Sri Lanka are known to have used anti-aircraft It also exposed the vulnera-

force, its only vehicle for getting troops, weapons and supplies to front-line bases on the mostly rebel-held north. Saturday's crash near an airstrip in northern Sri Lanka

was the second such attack in two days. On Friday, 38 soldiers were killed when their plane crashed and exploded after taking off from the Palaili airstrip, a toehold in the rebel-held Ja-

The military had initially refused to blame the rebels for Friday's crash. "It has now been revealed that a similar

military statement issued after Saturday's attack said.

The plane exploded in midair and fell 1.5 kilometres (one mile) inside rebel territory, said Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, a military spo-

Ground troops were at-

tempting to reach the wreck-

age, military officials said.

The make and origin of the surface-to-air missiles was not immediately known, but missiles made by China, Russia and the United States are believed to be plentiful in the

Alghanistan war. Officials said Sri Lanka was

warned a few months ago by the Ukrainian government that an illegal arms shipment was heading toward Sri Lanka, but

rantha Goonatilleke and D S Wickremasinghe, who were going to investigate Friday's The journalists on the plane were Karunaratna Supu-

The fighting has intensified almost daily since the rebels broke off peace talks with the government April 19, claiming the government had not gone far enough in meeting their

Since the truce ended. more than 210 people have been killed.

dismay over the delay in implementations of some of the bank-aided projects in the agriculture and rural development sectors. Reviewing the progress of

the projects in the country recently, the ADB asked the government of Bangladesh to expedite the completion of the

rain also in Faridpur.

Minister verbally asked the See Page 12 Col 6



People in the city's Faridabad area form a queue to get a pail of water from a fire engine yesterday. In view of the acute water crisis in the city, the Prime Minister recently ordered the Fire Service to supply water to ease the problem.

The mother of Masud Ahmed, 25, killed yesterday in a clash

They abducted him from his house at Brahmandi in Narsingdi town and took him

beaten up, his arms and legs were broken and he was thrown into the pond, it is al-

The incident created tension in the whole area. In retaliation, a group of people,

cident, was coming by his motor cycle. He was shot from behind and died on way to

Delay in implementation

of projects dismays ADB By Krishna P Roy rural development sectors The Asian Development, which are all scheduled to be Bank (ADB) has expressed its completed by 1999.

> The net loan amount for these projects has been fixed at US dollars 583.5 million. The contract awards, however, have totalled 210 million dollars, as of January 31 this year. ldentifying the problems

hampering the implementation, the bank expressed disappointment over the delay in the pace of work of the Southwest Area Water Resources Development project.

The progress of the 3.3 million dollar project suffered as the government of Bangladesh "was slow in the appointment of consultants,' the bank said in its overview.

The ADB suggested the government expedite the appointment of consultants to avoid further delay in project implementation. About the 26.1 million Horticulture Development pro-

ject, the ADB has asked the

government to approve the re-

soon to facilitate the smooth implementation of the project. The ADB also asked the government to improve the management of the 8.2 million dollar Rural Women Employm-

COLOMBO. Apr 29: Escalating the 12-year ethnic war. Tamil rebels shot down a military plane with a surface-toair missile Saturday, killing at least 52 people, including three journalists, the military said, reports AP.

bility Sri Lanka's small air

ffna peninsula.

crash on Friday, 28 April," a Saturday's crash happened

as the twin-engine Avro plane approached the same airstrip, 310 kilometres (190 miles) north of the capital. Colombo. It had taken off from the Anuradhapura military base, 150 kilometres (95 miles)

"The pilot had shouted missile attack over the radio before he was hit and lost communication." Munasinghe

the ship disappeared. Among those on board Saturday's flight were two Air Force wing commanders, Shi-

tantri Kirama Piyasoma and Edwin Weerasinghe, all working for the state-owned Sinhala language newspaper. Silumini

Prayers for rain from May 3

Arrangement has been

People of all walks of life

By Staff Correspondent

There are 13 ADB-funded projects in the agriculture and Fire Brigade helps supply water

projects.

By Staff Correspondent As water crisis is mounting in the city, the Fire Brigade has started volunteering to supply water to those areas where crisis is acute.

Home Minister and the Director General of Fire Service recently. Sources said the initiative was taken as the Prime

their services on Friday follow-

ing a meeting between the

The Fire Brigade began

vised project proforma (PP) ent Creation project.