

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
 ITALIAN CARRARA PERLATO SICILIA
 BOTTICINO INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN
 MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
 OF DIFFERENT TYPES
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
 199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA
 TEL. 805957, 807363 SHOW ROOM 861985

The Daily Star

Day or Night
 Standard Chartered
 16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 5.00

VOL. V NO. 129 REGD. NO. DA 781 JAISHTHA 19, 1402 BS, DHAKA FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1995 MUHARRAM 2, 1416 HIJRI

Inside Today

Article
TADA has Become a Habit
 Column: Between the Lines
 by Kuldip Nayyar
 Page 4

International
UN rejects Serb conditions, demands release of hostages
Malaria still threatens 40pc of world's population
 Page 5

Business
US changes GSP rules for 35 nations
USAID Dhaka-IFDC accord to serve Agri Ministry
 Page 6

STOCK MARKET
 DSE price index 710.76 (+1.11%)
 Market capitalisation Tk 42.09 billion
 Turnover in volume 133615
 Turnover in value Tk 30.48 million

Weekend Magazine
48th Cannes Film Festival: The Road also bends—a short story; and Entertainment with Living; Rising Stars; Teens and Twenties and Weekend Sports
 Pages 9-16

EC may issue ID cards in selected areas

By Krishna P Roy

The Election Commission (EC) may now go for issuing identity (ID) cards to the voters in some selected places, particularly in urban areas, due to time constraint, highly placed sources in the Commission said.

With that objective, the EC is now preparing tender schedules and would start selling those from the middle of this month to the enlisted computer firms, the sources added.

After holding a series of meetings with computer experts, the EC perceived that it would not be possible to provide all the six million voters with ID cards before the next general elections due early next year.

A number of computer firms, however, at a press conference in the city recently said they would be able to prepare ID cards for all the voters within six months from the time they got work order.

On the other hand, some leading computer experts are of the view that it is quite impossible to bring all the voters under the ID card programme within the roughly six-month period, left before the next elections.

Following the passage of EC Bill in the Jatiya Sangsad last year, every eligible voter must be issued ID card before any general elections are held in the country.

Talking to this correspondent, Director of EC's ID card project Omar Faroque said they would appoint 10 local and 5 foreign advisers to monitor the implementation of ID card project.

"We shall issue a press release for the appointment of local advisers within a couple of days," he said. "They would monitor the project till it is implemented." About Tk two crore would be spent in this regard, he said.

He could not say when they would give work order to the computer firms, but said more than one firm would be awarded the contract. "No foreign firms would be awarded the contract directly, we shall select only local firms," he said.

Omar Faroque further said, "We need time since the project is a unique one in the country and we have no knowledge whether any other country undertook such a large scale project."

"It is really a challenging job, we are trying to minimise possibilities of errors and failures," he said. He added that they had talks with computer

Manzur murder case Col Shams seeks retraction of statement

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, June 1: Lt Col (Rtd) Shamsur Rahman, one of the accused in the Manzur murder case, had a closed door meeting with his lawyer in the court today in the presence of Chittagong Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Matur Rahman.

The lawyer was allowed to meet him inside the court room for 15 minutes to have a briefing and instruction from his client to conduct the case.

The CMM allowed advocate Ahmed Hussain to meet his client under section 352 CrPC in his presence following permission given earlier by the Chittagong District and Sessions Judge.

During the closed door talks, Shamsur Rahman signed a petition for retraction of his statement recorded by the Magistrate in Dhaka after his arrest and submitted his petition to the court.

See Page 8 Col 3

\$ 1407m net foreign aid disbursement this fiscal likely

Star Report

The estimated total foreign aid disbursement in fiscal 1994-95 is 1883 million US dollars while the Aid Club commitment for the year was 2100 million dollars.

Of the estimated disbursement, food aid is 150 million dollars, commodity aid 456 million dollars and project aid 1277 million dollars, according to the Bangladesh Bank Annual Report for 1993-94 released recently.

During 1994-95, Bangladesh will pay back 476 million dollars to donors, of which 144 million as debt service, the report said.

The net disbursement of foreign aid this fiscal, minus the debt service, is estimated at 1407 million dollars, which is 250 million dollars more than that of fiscal 1993-94.

The Aid Club meeting in Paris in April last pledged 1950 million dollars as aid to Bangladesh, for fiscal '95-96 while the current fiscal will end with 5357.4 million dollars of cumulative aid in the pipeline.

The amount of foreign aid commitment for fiscal 93-94 was 2577 million dollars but the country actually received 1559 million dollars which was 6.9 per cent less than that of the previous year.

Till June 30, 1994, the total outstanding foreign aid liability of the country stood at 12,139 million dollars, five per cent higher than that of the previous year. In 1993, it stood at 11,558 million dollars, according to the report.

In '93-94, the country paid back debt service of 263 million and 139 million dollars

See Page 8 Col 1

Govt for gradual elimination of child labour

The government yesterday had a meeting with the parties involved in child labour issue and insisted that a "mutually acceptable solution" be evolved for gradual elimination of child workers, reports UNB.

At the meeting, Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali led the government side which laid emphasis on gradual elimination and rehabilitation of the child workers from all sectors, including garments.

US Ambassador David N Merrill, ILO country Director Paul J Bailey and UNICEF representative Rolf C Carrier, who attended the meeting, explained their respective standpoints on the child labour issue.

Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Labour Secretary Dr Harun-ur-Rashid, Additional Secretary in-charge of Women Affairs Matur Rahman and Social Welfare Secretary M A Hannan were present.

See Page 8 Col 8

CEC tells AL delegation 'People are my concern, not any party'

By Staff Correspondent

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice A K M Sadeque yesterday said he would not hesitate to quit office if the people wanted, but would not do so due to political pressure.

Justice Sadeque said this when a delegation of the Awami League met him and questioned the way he was appointed, sources concerned said.

"People are my concern, not any party. If I lose my acceptability to the people then there is no logic in holding the post," a source quoted the CEC as saying.

The major opposition political parties including the Awami League rejected the ap-

Hearing of writ against EC adjourned

The hearing of the writ petition challenging certain provisions of the voters' registration has again been adjourned till June 5, reports UNB.

A High Court Division bench comprising Justice Ismail Uddin Sarkar and Justice Abu Sayeed Ahmad fixed the fresh date after petitioner's lawyer Advocate A B M Nurul Islam prayed for time.

Advocate Islam told the court that he needs time as he wants to present relevant laws of India and Pakistan relating to the fixation of age of voters.

According to the existing provision, one has to be 18 years old on January 1, 1995 to be a voter although the voters' registration is taking place five months later.

See Page 8 Col 6



Members of the BCS (Admin) Association crowding before the office of the Commerce Secretary, the association chief, in the city yesterday. — Star photo

178 Rohingyas return home after a gap of 23 days

From Our Correspondent
 COX'S BAZAR, June 1: A batch of 178 Rohingya refugees belonging to 26 families returned to their homeland today after a gap of 23 days.

Out of a total of 2,50,877 refugees 1,92,015 have so far gone back home while 58,862 others are still waiting to be repatriated.

Of the remaining 88,862 refugees, clearances for the return of only 16,862 have been issued. The Myanmar authorities are reluctant to issue clearance for the remaining 42,000 refugees.

The process of repatriation of the Rohingyas has slowed down considerably due to the non-clearance of 42,000 refugees by the Myanmar authorities, officials said.

The bi-monthly official level meetings are also not taking place for the last nine months, they said.

The last meeting between the two countries was held on August 12 last year in Cox's Bazar.

NEWS BRIEFS

Indonesian ship salvaged
 CHITTAGONG, June 1: The Bangladesh Navy has salvaged the Indonesian merchant ship MV Khatu Listwa and towed it to the Chittagong harbour today. The ship sunk near the Kutubdia island recently, an ISPR press release said. The ship was later handed over to its local agent. Naval rescue teams including naval divers from the Chittagong area went on board BNS Khadem and took part in three days of salvage operation, reports BSS.

Cultural team arrives in Yangon
 The Bangladesh cultural delegation led by Secretary of the Ministry of Culture M Mokhlesur Rahman arrived at Yangon, the capital of Myanmar, yesterday, a message received here said. Deputy Minister for Culture of Myanmar U Soe Nyunt received the Bangladesh delegation at Yangon Airport, reports BSS.

Tofael leaves for UK today
 Awami League president member Tofael Ahmed leaves Dhaka for the United Kingdom today to attend a British Council seminar on 'Better Government: Some Current Concerns'. The week-long seminar will begin on June 4 under the auspices of British Foreign Office and the Commonwealth. During his stay in London, Tofael will meet the government and opposition leaders of Britain and witness the proceedings of the House of Commons and House of Lords, reports UNB.

Alcatel proposes joint venture with TSS

By S Y Bakht

The French telecom giant Alcatel has offered to set up a company jointly with the state-owned Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) to produce digital telephone lines, official sources confirmed yesterday.

According to a well-placed source at the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, the government has in principle agreed to the proposal, but there still remains a few serious 'sticking' points which are blocking a final agreement. The offer is currently in an advanced stage of negotiation.

The Alcatel proposal calls for setting up a new factory beside the existing TSS plant in Tongi or outside, with the French company holding the controlling interest or 51 per cent of the share in the new venture.

Alcatel also sought a guarantee that at least one lakh digital telephone line exchanges expected to be produced at the proposed plant would be purchased by the Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTB) per year. Furthermore, it declined to include the existing assets and liabilities of TSS in the new venture.

But the government is reluctant to agree to the above

Fierce fighting in Lanka: 77 killed

COLOMBO, June 1: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels and army troops fought their bloodiest jungle battle in six weeks today and raised the death toll to 77 in fierce fighting, the military said, despite foreign pressure to de-escalate ethnic bloodletting, reports AFP.

Infantrymen penetrated rebel defences and moved deep into a jungle base of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in northeast Sri Lanka, killing at least 60 rebels, military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

Seven soldiers, including two officers, were also killed and 33 soldiers were seriously wounded in what Munasinghe described as the worst clashes since the latest bloodletting began on April 19 after the LTTE pulled out of peace talks with the Colombo government.

"It was a close quarter battle. There are bodies all over. Our initial figure is that at least 60 terrorists were killed but the final figure could be more," he said, adding that most of the rebel bodies were now behind army lines.

Meanwhile, hundreds of troops poured into the area to track down more jungle base in the region used by the LTTE to stage attacks against several

See Page 8 Col 6

Fire in abandoned ship kills 2 in Sitakunda

CHITTAGONG, June 1: Two labourers were burnt to death and another four injured in a fire in an abandoned ship at Sitakunda ship-breaking yard here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Shahadat Ali, 40, of Nazirpur in Pirozpur district and Julhas, 22, of Bichhutia in Tangail district, police and hospital sources said.

The fire broke out at about 1:30 pm at M Rahman Ship Breaking Yard when the labourers were engaged in breaking a Swedish ship.

Police recovered the bodies from the ship at 9 pm, about seven hours after firemen brought the fire under control.

Fire Service sources said, gas used in cutting the parts of the ship caused the fire.

The injured people were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

BCS (Admin) demands Stalemate continues

By Staff Correspondent

The stalemate over the BCS Administration Association's six-point demand continued yesterday with the cadre members pressing their leaders to take a harder line to realise the demands.

M Asafuddin, president of the Association, however, called upon the cadre members to exercise restraint and maintain peace.

An amicable solution to the problem is expected by June 3, he told a special meeting of the central executive committee of the Association at its Eskaton Office yesterday.

The Association will meet again tomorrow to chart the next course of action.

The leaders of the Association yesterday held a meeting with the State Minister for Establishment. They discussed the six-point demand of the Association.

Cabinet Secretary Ayubur Rahman, M Asafuddin and Secretary General of the Association Nuruzzaman Mia were present.

Meanwhile, press reports that the government was considering tough action against the agitating officials slowed down activities in the Secretariat yesterday, according to witnesses.

See Page 8 Col 4

DMP squad to check crimes

By Staff Correspondent

The 'Speed Enforcement Squad' of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has started functioning.

The police squad of 20 groups equipped with modern communications system, arms and motor bikes has been introduced to check mugging and crimes on the city roads.

DMP commissioner AN Hussain inaugurated the special police squad at the DMP headquarters yesterday morning.

The squad will take action against the vehicles which violate traffic rules. In order to resist mugging, the squad could also search any vehicle on suspicion.

The members of the squad will wear DMP uniform, white helmet, coloured glass, long boot, yellow jacket and 'speed enforcement' imprinted arm band.

White colour motor bikes inscribed with 'Police Patrol' will be used by the policemen. Besides, they will carry automatic arms to combat crime and mugging.

The DMP commissioner also witnessed an exercise of the newly introduced squad. Senior police officials were present.

All about a new fertiliser

By Teaz Ahmad, back from Rangpur

Dewantuli, otherwise a typical village in Rangpur district, has nothing special but one thing that gives its sandy crop land a new look is Swarna, an organic 'environment-friendly' fertiliser.

Swarna, evolved by a Bangladeshi scientist, Dr Abdul Khaleque after eight years of research under a fellowship of the London University, is being used for the first time this year in some parts of this northern district as an alternative to chemical fertiliser.

"We were primarily very much skeptical about using this new fertiliser in our lands. But, with much to our wonder it works fine. Look, no sign of attack by insects and no deformed stalk," said Abdul Rashid Munshi, an elderly peasant of village Dewantuli, pointing at the standing IRRI

Dr Khaleque (R), inventor of 'Swarna' — a new kind of fertiliser — seen in a paddy field at the village Dewantuli in Rangpur district in which the fertiliser was used. — Star photo

See Page 8 Col 1

AL calls hartal in Sirajganj BCL leader killed in clash with JCD

SIRAJGANJ, June 1: A Chhatra League leader was killed and 16 people were injured in a clash with the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists in the town today, reports UNB.

The Awami League called a 48-hour hartal in the district from tomorrow morning to protest the killing of its student activist.

The dead was identified as Nazmul Hoque, a student of the Sirajganj University College.

Witnesses said the clash erupted when the JCD activists allegedly attacked a group of BCL supporters near the local Press Club at about 7:00 pm.

Both the groups during the battle fired shots and exploded at least 40 crackers, injuring 17 people, including Nazmul.

Nazmul was rushed to a local clinic in a critical condition and immediately shifted to the Sirajganj General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at about 8:55 pm.

Two JCD leaders, Shaiful Alam Dolar and Manna, were also admitted to the hospital with splinter injuries.

Later, at about 9:00 pm, the BCL activists set fire to 12 shops, 15 houses and a cinema hall in the town to protest the killing of Nazmul, witnesses said.

Local people said the JCD and BCL activists locked into a series of clashes after the results of the Students' Union election of Sirajganj University College were announced on Monday.

2 BCL activists gunned down in Raozan

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, June 1: Two activists of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League were gunned down by unidentified assailants at a wedding ceremony at Chowdhurypara, Noapara under Raozan thana here last night.

Five other guests of the party also received bullet injuries. The condition of one Shamim was stated to be critical.

The dead were identified as Golam Mostafa Sohel, 20, and Shaiful Huda Liton, 21, both of them from Raozan.

The Chhatra League has held the National Democratic Party (NDP) responsible for the killing. The NDP denied the allegation.