

For Documents Door to Door delivery
To 237 Destinations in INDIA

BLUE DART
EXPRESS LIMITED

PLEASE CONTACT: BANGLADESH AIR EXPRESS INT'L LTD.
Head Office: 9565114, Fax: 9565112, Gulshan: 887771, Chittagong: (031) 712127, Khulna: (041) 725008



The colourful rally organised by the Fine Arts Institute of the Dhaka University on Pahela Baishakh Monday.

181 Hajj pilgrims killed

From Page 1
The Indonesian, Pakistani and Malaysian, the official, who requested anonymity, told AFP. "We have been able to evacuate most of the Indian pilgrims, but some are still trapped and we could not reach them so far because of the strong wind blowing on the fire, and therefore we cannot say anything about the victims," he said. The official said that the heart of the fire was probably located at the Pakistani camp, number 21. Thirty Pakistanis were confirmed dead. The fire, sparked in nearby Mina by a gas bottle used for cooking, burnt down thousands of tents in the camps of several nationalities and forced a mass evacuation. Witnesses said helicopters were brought in to aid firefighters fight the blaze at Mina, where 104-degree heat was coupled with high winds that fanned the flames. The fire was contained after several hours. A second fire was reported in Iranian encampments on

BNP team

From Page 1
hension that the ensuing by-election in vacant seats of parliament will not be free and fair if the election is conducted under the leadership of the incumbent Chief Election Commissioner. The President gave them a patient hearing and said that he will take up the matter with the authority of the government, said an official handout. Earlier on March 25, a three-member BNP delegation called on the President and requested him to use his good office to facilitate early formation of parliamentary committees keeping in view due representation of BNP parliamentarians. According to the Constitution, the committees are to be constituted "as soon as possible after formation of a Jatiya Sangsad."

A grand opportunity

From Page 1
It was definitely the short-sightedness of the ruling party, and its inability to see the historic nature of the event and the magnificent opportunity for national unity that it presented, which prevented it from inviting non-partisan national figures like former Chief Advisor Habibur Rahman from heading the national committee. Members of the Committee were chosen in most arbitrary

12 killed

From Page 1
fied as Amejuddin, 50, of Gushainagar village in Manikgonj Sadar thana. Of the injured, 16 were admitted to Sadar Hospital and 14 sent to Dhaka. In another accident, an unidentified youth was killed and 10 people were injured when a truck carrying them plunged into a wayside ditch at Rathora in Ghor thana at 7.30 am. Thirty more people were wounded when a Aricha-bound coach from Dhaka fell into a roadside ditch near a Public Administration Training Centre (PATC) in Savar thana at 9.30 am. BSS adds: Hundreds of villagers yesterday blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh road for three hours at Kanahour under Trishal thana protesting the killing of a woman in a road accident. Police said a woman aged about 30 was killed at Kanahour area on Dhaka-Mymensingh road at Noon when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Mymensingh knocked down the woman. A report from Narasingdi says: A head-on-collision between a bus and a truck on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Kanarpura in Shibirpur thana today left a passenger dead and 20 others injured, five critically.

'Bangladesh-S'pore ties can help accelerate regional growth'

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh-Singapore ties could act as bridge between ASEAN and the SAARC countries to accelerate growth and prosperity in the region, said the visiting Foreign Minister of Singapore, S Jayakumar.

"Our two countries could shape the peace and contribute to the stability of the region in this changed era. Besides, it is an optimistic situation since the region has had no armed conflict," he said.

The Singapore Foreign Minister was addressing a select gathering of academics, military and civil officials and diplomats at a dialogue on "Bangladesh-Singapore" relations organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) yesterday afternoon. Presenting an overall analysis of the region, Jayakumar said the future growth of the Asia and the Pacific region would depend largely on the situation in the Korean Peninsula, China-Taiwan relations and resolution of territorial claims in the South China seas.

He hoped that these three issues would be resolved peacefully so that the region which is now witnessing "an ever increasing and unprecedented flow of overseas investment would prosper to benefit all its peoples."

Jayakumar also spoke about the creation of growth triangles within ASEAN and said such efforts were bringing greater prosperity to the participating countries. He noted the growth triangle of Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia and said to exchange technical skills, expertise and raw materials for the common development efforts.

Speaking about Singapore's success story, he observed that

Cong willing

From Page 1
hours, the names of Tamil Maanila Congress Chief G K Moopanan, Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal leader Laloo Prasad Yadav, External Affairs Minister I K Gujral and Defence Minister Mulyam Singh Yadav came up as the candidates to head the next government.

Prakash said that the Congress, which helped vote the previous 10th United Front government out of office Friday, would not try to influence the alliance's leadership election after deposed Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda offered to stand down.

"They are at liberty to choose any leader who can carry out efficiently various programmes, such as to fight poverty and see that secular forces are strengthened," he said. "We will not interfere in the process of selecting a new leader."

3 rebel leaders

From Page 1
delegation, led by Munirul Haq Chowdhury, met the three leaders yesterday afternoon, the sources said. According to the sources the "party hierarchy" agreed on principle to accept the demands of the three leaders, withdraw the statement of the Jatiya Party Whip in which some leaders were accused of weakening the party and also the expulsion order against one of the leaders. When contacted, Nazim Rahman Manju, joint secretary general of the party, said the three "rebel" leaders have already been invited for dialogue. About the date, he said "It will be fixed with their consent." About withdrawal of the order of expulsion against one of the presidium members, he said, "it is a minor issue."

it was possible because of the "combination of leadership and continuation of leadership."

The government in his country did not hesitate to take difficult and unpleasant decisions because people welcomed the results in the long term, he explained.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said in the backdrop of the current as well as prospective level of bilateral cooperation, Singapore represents one of the crucial partners of Bangladesh.

He said the two-way trade between the two countries is about 100 million Singapore dollar and Singapore's investment in Bangladesh was about 175 million Singapore dollar. Besides, there are about 50,000 Bangladeshis employed in Singapore, he said.

Dhaka, S'pore to strengthen ties

Bangladesh and Singapore agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation for the mutual benefit as well as peace and progress in the region, reports UNB.

The agreement was reached at the official talks between the two countries held in the city yesterday. Foreign Minister of Singapore Prof S Jayakumar led his country's six-member delegation at the talks while Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad led the home side.

The official talks covered the entire range of bilateral issues, centred on bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and other forms of economic and technical cooperation," said an official release.

Cattle market

From Page 1
sized bull with two teeth — indicating the age of the animal — was priced at Tk 10,500. Another trader from Gaibandha put his six-tooth bull's price at Tk 25,000.

A huge black bull weighing about 25 maunds, as estimated by the crowd gathered around it, was priced at Tk 1.5 lakh. The owner of the animal from Gaibandha, Kabiruddin, said he had himself reared it. The enormous beast had four teeth and was tied with several ropes. "People offered Tk 80,000 for it but I did not sell," Kabiruddin boasted.

"At the pay-out stall a buyer was paying taxes, on his Tk 9,900 purchase of a medium-sized bull. The stallman told this correspondent that they were realising five per cent on each sale. But DCC officials said the tax should not be more than four and half per cent."

Traders and sources at the Livestock Department said the supply of cattle in the city markets was 'very slow' over the last few days due to problems at the borders.

"There was a transport strike in India which slowed down the supply of cattle on which our markets are largely dependent," said a Livestock Department official.

Another source said that "for some specific reasons" thousands of cattle were stopped near the border. The source at the Livestock Department was hinting at the illegal 'tolls' realised en-route to the capital.

Traders at different markets complained they had to pay 'tolls' at different points of the cattle routes. "Prices of our cattle would automatically come down if we were not subjected to these tolls," said one Kowran Bazar trader who came from Chapainawabganj.

Blender with mill and chopper



Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets

Dhaka: 815306-9, 819625-9, 889993
Ctg.: 716353, 723578, Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 8215

Let's make things better
PHILIPS

Tejgaon College student stabbed to death

A second year student of Tejgaon Degree College in the city succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said Shaiful Islam Ajoy, 23, son of Anil Kumer Shaha of Mirpur area, was attacked by the members of local Kanon group at Indira Road on way to his friend's house on Monday afternoon.

Shaiful Islam, a Hindu youth converted to Islam, was rushed to DMCH with stab injuries and died there at about 2 am.

Gold smuggling Hearing of case against Ershad on June 18

By Staff Correspondent

The date for hearing of the gold smuggling case and a corruption case against former president H M Ershad has been fixed on June 18. The Additional District and Session's Judge fixed the date for hearing of the cases following two petitions filed by the defence counsel stating that Ershad was sick and unable to attend the hearing yesterday.

Meanwhile, a group of Jatiya Party MPs, including minister for communications and JP Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manjua visited Ershad at his Baridhara home on Monday. A JP press release said that the MPs expressed their full confidence in his leadership and "firmly hoped that under his able and dynamic leadership JP would march ahead and achieve successes in the days to come."

BGMEA

From Page 1
Under the proposed "code of conduct", all companies exporting goods to the US will have to agree to have independent auditors monitor compliance with rules on minimum wages, child labour and a maximum 60-hour working week."

When contacted, Alamgir Faruk Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, told The Daily Star, "We do not contradict the US 'code of conduct' in principle, but we are worried that First World wages will be enforced in developing countries which cannot afford those."

He said, "We have already successfully replaced child labour in the ready-made garment industries — we have no sweat-shops in Bangladesh."

BGMEA president Mostafa Golam Qudus said that there was no child labour in Bangladesh's garment industries and that the 60-hour working week was being enforced.

Bangladeshis

From Page 1
mediately after the fire incident, said a press release from Makkah.

According to a message sent to BSS by Chittagong city Mayor Alhaj ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury by telephone at 8 pm yesterday said all Bangladeshis including some 350 pilgrims from Chittagong are safe and in good health.

BNP not invited

From Page 1

Termining the ruling party's claim of inviting his party, Mannan Bhuiyan said, "We were very sincere to participate in the programme on such an issue of national pride and we contacted the Sports Ministry, the Civil Aviation Ministry and the Cricket Control Board. But the officials there expressed their ignorance about our participation in the programmes."

The BNP leader blamed the ruling party for politicising the nation's victory in the ICC Trophy.

When contacted, member-secretary of the 101-member national reception committee, Mofazzal Hussain Chowdhury Maya said he was not aware of extending invitation to BNP as Abdul Jalil, Chairman of the committee, was responsible for contacting BNP.

But Jalil could not be contacted for confirmation as the AL acting general secretary was out of the city yesterday. About the representation of BNP in the reception committee, which mainly comprised of AL and left party leaders, Maya said he was not in a position to provide the reply and suggested to talk to the committee chairman.

Major General Mohammad Azzur Rahman, Director General of Bangladesh Rules, led a 12-member delegation while DG of BSF, AK Tandon, led a 15-member host team.

Bangladesh emphasised the completion of legal formalities by the Indian side for implementing the earlier-signed agreement on ownership of border lands.

Giving a special importance on border demarcation, the conference decided to complete it before the next meet.

It was informed that the survey on enclaves already had been completed and India expressed its willingness to hand over those and captured lands to Bangladesh after legal formalities.

Both sides also agreed to follow the decisions taken in joint working committee meetings in 1994 and '95 in New Delhi and Dhaka on trespasses.

Bangladesh in the conference raised some specific proposals for easing the movement and livelihood for the residents of Dohgram and Angorporta enclaves.

Considering the proposals, India assured of allowing the dwellers of the two enclaves movement through the corridor every half an hour instead of present one hour.

IMF to take stock

From Page 1

"Please explain how the recently passed amendments to the Financial Loans Court Act, Banking Company Act and the new Bankruptcy Act might facilitate the resolution of problems in the banking system. What other steps are being contemplated to transform the culture of non-payment of loans and what is the envisaged time frame?" it asked.

The IMF also sought discussion on the current plans to privatise the nationalised commercial banks. "How have the recent developments in the stock market affected the earlier plans to increase the placement of NCB shares through the stock exchange?"

It wanted to know the developments in the capital market and assess the cost and effectiveness of recent measures to support the stock market.

On other queries, it wanted to know about the recent amendments to the Securities and Exchange Commission Act, how they will "improve the effectiveness of capital market regulations and supervision and discuss existing plans to further strengthen the SEC, de-

Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif, who was also a member of the reception committee, told this correspondent that he came to know from press reports that he was inducted as a member of the committee.

Meanwhile, JSD (Inu) General Secretary Hasnail Haq Inu said, in its first and only meeting on Sunday night the National Reception Committee decided to invite other parties to the programme after some left party leaders had raised the issue.

Though the name of a Jatiya Party leader, Monirul Haq Chowdhury, was there in the reception committee, he also was not present at the civic reception.

Border confice

From Page 1

"terrorist" acts in their insurgency-infested northeastern states.

Major General Mohammad Azzur Rahman, Director General of Bangladesh Rules, led a 12-member delegation while DG of BSF, AK Tandon, led a 15-member host team.

Bangladesh emphasised the completion of legal formalities by the Indian side for implementing the earlier-signed agreement on ownership of border lands.

Giving a special importance on border demarcation, the conference decided to complete it before the next meet.

It was informed that the survey on enclaves already had been completed and India expressed its willingness to hand over those and captured lands to Bangladesh after legal formalities.

Both sides also agreed to follow the decisions taken in joint working committee meetings in 1994 and '95 in New Delhi and Dhaka on trespasses.

Bangladesh in the conference raised some specific proposals for easing the movement and livelihood for the residents of Dohgram and Angorporta enclaves.

Considering the proposals, India assured of allowing the dwellers of the two enclaves movement through the corridor every half an hour instead of present one hour.

Pahela Baishakh

From Page 1

the lush green Ramna Park at six in the morning, organised by 'Chhayanat'.

The day was a public holiday. Special programmes were aired by the national hook-up while newspapers came out with colourful supplements.

Traditional *Baishakhi melas* (fairs) were held at a number of places in the city including Ramna Park, Bangla Academy, Dhanmondi play ground, Bangladesh Folk and Craft Development Organisation held a craft exhibition at Ramna Park. Many people also had 'panta-bhat' (a special Bengali dish of watery rice) at the makeshift stalls at the park.

In the morning, students of the Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University brought out a colourful procession, wearing face masks and carrying musical instruments, dancing to the tune of drum beats. A huge cricket bat added new colour to this year's procession.

Different other socio-cultural organisations celebrated the Bangla new year through various programmes.

Alleged mugger beaten to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

An alleged mugger was beaten to death at Islampur in the old part of the city Monday afternoon.

Police said that the unidentified man aged about 30, was seriously assaulted by a group of people in front of a market in Islampur at about 1.45 pm. He was taken to the Mitford Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

The victim and two of his accomplices reportedly snatched Tk 700 from an elderly homeward-bound man.

A murder case has been filed with Kotwali thana, police added.

2 killed in clash over land in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 15: A clash between two rival groups of villagers over a land dispute in Mirsarai thana today left two people dead and 10 others injured, reports UNB.

Grand reception to heroes

From Page 1

face masks.

The mammoth crowd, eagerly awaiting a glimpse of their favourite heroes, burst into thunderous cheers and applause as the cricket heroes in a uniform dress started climbing the colourfully-decorated podium at 11:20 am under the leadership of Akram Khan, captain of the team.

On the dais the Prime Minister warmly received the victorious cricket stars with bouquets. Portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Sheikh Hasina was hung in the background on the dais.

The rejoicing crowd showed 'V' signs to the cricketers who moved around the dais, waved hands and reciprocated with a similar signs. Then, all the members of the Bangladesh cricket team sat on the front edge of the podium enabling the crowd to see them, with the PM and other dignitaries sitting behind.

"It's my pleasure to be present in an extravaganza, ladies and gentlemen, this success is yours," shouted the legendary West Indian cricketer, Gordon Greenidge under whose guidance Bangladesh secured a berth in the 1999 World Cup Cricket. He urged the members of the cricket team to stand up.

The crowd cheered back to Akram Khan when he said, "This is the victory of 12 crore people and I'm dedicating a victory to the memory of the martyrs of the Liberation War."

"Such a big victory and honour has become possible because the 12 crore people prayed for us," said Akram. "We hope to snatch a bigger victory with united efforts by all concerned."

reception committee' headed by Awami League acting general secretary Abd Jalil, formally began at 11:30 pm. 90 minutes behind schedule. People from all directions started converging on the venue since early morning.

The function started with recitation from the holy books including the Quran. Members of the cricket team were then presented with bouquets. State Minister for Sports Obaidul Kader, Chairman of Bangladesh Cricket Control Board Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP, Secretary Ministry of Sports ASM Shajahan and Bangladesh Betar commentator Zafrullah Sharaf were also presented bouquets on the podium.

Before the reception got underway, renowned radio and television astutes rendered patriotic and popular songs. The programme was rounded off with an open air concert by popular band groups, Abdul Jabbar, Subir Nandi, Fakir Alamgir, Shabnam Mushtaree, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonya, Farida Parveen, Kumar Bishwajit and Bipul Bhattacharya were among the singers who enthralled the huge crowd.

In her speech, Sheikh Hasina expressed her heart-felt congratulations to the cricketers. She said, "The victory has brought smiles on the faces of people of Bangladesh after a long time. Again, it has been proved that the Bangalee is a brave nation which has once again held its head high. No power under the sky can dominate it."

"My gratitude to the Almighty Allah for the pleasure and smile of the people," she said adding that she would seek divine blessings while performing the Hajj so that she could

build the Sonar Bangla, as dreamt by Bangabandhu. Sheikh Hasina left for Mecca on Monday to perform the Hajj.

At the reception, the Prime Minister also handed over cheques for five lakh taka to each of the players and the coach and cheques for three lakh taka to umpire, Shaheen and the physician in the team, Dr Jawaad.

The PM had earlier promised a car for each of the cricketers if the Bangladesh team could qualify for the 1999 World Cup. The decision to give cash was taken later as most of the cricketers owned cars.

She also announced other gifts for the cricket heroes and donations for the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB).

According to the announcement, each member of the cricket team will get a cellular phone set from the Telecommunications Ministry, lifetime free travel facility from the Aero Bengal, a private domestic airline, two Dhaka-Singapore-Dhaka complimentary tickets from Biman, free health service from the Health Ministry and one colour TV set each from the Information Ministry.

The Industries Ministry and the Finance Ministry will donate 10 lakh taka each for the development of the BCCB.

Among others, State Minister for Sports Obaidul Kader and AL acting general secretary Abdul Jalil also spoke on the occasion. Earlier, the Prime Minister received the cricketers at the Zia International Airport and took breakfast with them at her Ganabhang official residence before going for the civic reception.

ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পানির অপচয় বন্ধ করুন। | ম্যানহোলের ঢাকনা ছুরি রোধ করুন

ঢাকা ওয়াসার সম্মিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পানি ও পয়ঃ অতিক্রমের বিল পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক পরিচালিত বিশেষ অভিযানের কার্যক্রম জোরদার করা হয়েছে।

গ্রাহকদের অনুরোধক্রমে হালনাগাদ সমুদয় বকেয়া পরিশোধকারী গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে পানি ও পয়ঃ অতিক্রমের সার্বার্জ মওকুফের সুবিধা আগামী ৩০-৪-৯৭ ইং পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হইল।

বকেয়া অনাদায়ের কারণে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন এবং পিডিআর এ্যাট্টের অধীনে ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটের কোর্টে মামলা এড়ানোর নিমিত্ত অবিলম্বে বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ আপনার পানি ও পয়ঃ অতিক্রম পরিশোধ করুন। বিল না পেয়ে থাকলে রাজস্ব অঞ্চলসমূহের রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তার সহিত যোগাযোগ করুন।

বিল সংক্রান্ত কোন অভিযোগ থাকলে ঢাকা ওয়াসার সংশ্লিষ্ট আঞ্চলিক অফিস বা প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা (ফোনঃ ৩২৫২৪০) বা বাণিজ্যিক বাবস্থাপক (ফোনঃ ৯১২০৫৭) অথবা উপ-বাবস্থাপনা পরিচালক (অর্থ) (ফোনঃ ৮১৬৭৯৯) এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

ওয়াসা আপনার সেবায় নিয়োজিত
| ঢাকা ওয়াসা |

ওয়াসা - জরুরী ৩৭/৯৭

ডি-৪৫৪