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ON BOARD COURIER
EACH DAY EVERY DAY
TO INDIA



A partial view of Awami League workers and supporters outside the pandal, eagerly waiting to know about the new leadership of the party at its national council that ended last night at the Outer Stadium in the city. — Star photo

AL: Hasina, Zillur

From Page 1
hammad Selim, Suranjit Sen Gupta.
Amidst hopes and aspirations of the party rank and file for electing a 'new brand of leadership' in the party, Awami League yesterday opted for 'status-quo' in forming its new committee in its 15th national council.
Earlier in the afternoon, Sheikh Hasina declared the previous ALCWC dissolved. She, along with all party leaders then got down from the podium and sat on the front row of the audience.
Immediately after her re-election as party president, Sheikh Hasina told her party-men, "You have re-elected me. I accept your verdict and hereby pledge to carry forward the party's onward march".
Earlier, when her party leaders and cabinet colleagues urged her to retain her party position, she said, "I am too busy with my state responsibilities and am failing to give as much time as I did previously for the organisation."
The party leaders and workers shouted 'no, no'.
In an instant reaction Zillur Rahman told newsmen, "I am happy in getting this responsibility for the fourth time. I will try to discharge my duties with all my strength and honesty."
Thanking Sheikh Hasina and all councilors for electing him general secretary Rahman said, "It reminds me of Bangabandhu today, who had brought me into politics 50 years ago."
Earlier, Sheikh Hasina had adjourned the day's second session at 5:20 pm and listened to presidents and general secretaries of district units one by one. She then talked to central leaders before announcing the names of the presidium members, the general secretary and the organising secretary.
Earlier, addressing in brief the afternoon session, the AL president asked the party rank and file to serve the country with a sacrificing mentality. "If you work hard with dedication,

BNP demands
From Page 1
"It's like our attendance in the present JS despite our rejection of the June 12 rigged elections," he added.
The Opposition leader denied the ruling party charge that while in power, his party (BNP) did not allow proportionate representation in JS bodies.
BNP is represented by 34 members in 11 committees of the present parliament whereas the party should have 42 members, if given proportionate representation, he added.
Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain accused the ruling party of not only denying but eliminating the agreed minutes of the sub-committee meet that opposed proportionate representation.
BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP and MK Anwar MP also addressed the press conference.

Dhanmondi lake
From Page 1
consulting firm to prepare the project at an estimated cost of Tk 28.43 lakh. DCC sources said, the project was expected to be completed within the next fiscal year.
The project includes construction of a wall on the two sides of the lake, construction of platforms, roads, footpaths, car parks, restaurants, boat and swimming clubs, foot bridge, drainage and service lines, park furniture and ticket counter.
According to the project paper, for the first phase of the site development, some 48 lakh taka has been sanctioned while the second phase for the same purpose would need Tk 1.66 crore. The paper does not, however, mention whether the lake would be re-excavated but Tk 52.20 lakh has been earmarked for pumping out 5.8 crore gallons of water. Taka one crore would be spent to relocate electricity, telephone, WASA, Titas Gas and sewerage lines. Besides, Tk 60 crore has been estimated for electrical and mechanical works.

DOE
From Page 1
departments have shown little interest in the conversion project. According to the DOE, much of the black smoke in the city is caused by the large fleets of government as well as two-stroke vehicles.
DOE officials said, the cost of conversion of a petrol driven vehicle into compressed natural gas is Tk 20,000 regardless of its size while conversion from diesel to gas is Tk 80,000. In the city, there is a conversion workshop at Joarshahara and refueling facilities are available in four filling stations.
"If a diesel-driven passenger bus is converted, its fuel cost will be drastically cut," said the DOE official explaining how the expenses incurred for the conversion could be recovered within a short time.
The official emphasised the need for more government intervention in checking air pollution in the city. He suggested that transport companies be offered easy bank loans to encourage conversion.
BMA polls
From Page 1
Abdul Haque for the post of secretary general.
The Rashid-Jalal panel enjoys the support of the Awami League, CPB and JSD (Inu) while the Majed-Gazi panel is backed by BNP, Jamaat and JSD (Rab).
A total of 14,486 voters with 5,464 in the capital will cast their votes from 8 am to 5 pm without any break.
Prof Mashtur Rahman heads the 5-member election-conducting body.
Dr Majed, who became the BMA president for the third term last time is contesting for the fourth time while Dr Rashid is contesting for the post for the first time.
Dr Jalal and Dr Gazi served as the BMA secretary general earlier.

Ershad's meeting with '3 rebels' uncertain

From Page 1
Further reconciliatory talks between Jatiya Party chairman HM Ershad and the three 'rebel' leaders of the party has become uncertain. Shah Moazzam Hossain, one of the three leaders said yesterday.
Ershad and the three 'rebel' leaders — Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shah Moazzam Hossain — had met recently following withdrawal of Zafar's expulsion from the party and it was also decided that further meetings would be held to end disputes in the party.
Shah Moazzam Hossain, talking to The Daily Star over telephone said, "Further negotiation with the party chief has now become uncertain because of his statement at a public meeting in Kurigram, on published in newspapers."

Illegal arms factory unearthed inside Mohila College at Pabna

From Page 1
PABNA, May 7: Police unearthed an illegal arms manufacturing factory inside the Government Mohila College here today.
Acting on a tip off, a police team led by the officer-in-charge Pabna Sadar thana raided the college building at 1 pm.
Police recovered a pipe-gun, a pistol and various parts and instruments used in manufacturing firearms. The recovered items include haxo-blades, nuts, springs, drilling machines, piston, iron rod and cocktail making items. A book containing the formula for manufacturing arms was also recovered by police. None has been arrested so far.

Forged stamps

From Page 1
stamps worth more than Tk one lakh, police said.
Later, after his confession police raided a house at Hazi Jainal Abedin Road and arrested Babul. They also seized a large number of forged stamps, postage stamps, tickets of Bangladesh Biman, travel tax forms, certificates of different educational institutions and dyes, chemicals and other raw materials used in producing the counterfeit documents, police said.
Police were interrogating the arrested persons last night. However, the main accused in the case, Noor Mohammad, was absconding.

Male summit begins May 12

From Page 1
sources pointed out.
However, if any country raises objection at the summit, as Pakistan did during the December meeting of the Council of Ministers in Delhi, the formal take-off of a sub-regional grouping within the fold of the seven-member organisation might witness a stormy debate and the South Asian Growth Quadrangle (SAGQ) may emerge as a separate entity, outside the SAARC having both immediate and long term ramifications for the organisation launched in Dhaka in 1985, diplomatic sources noted. The SAARC charter mandates that all policy decisions are unanimously approved by all the seven members.
"On the sidelines of the SAARC summit, by all available indications, the participating heads of government will seize the opportunity to discuss bilateral issues.
The inaugural and closing sessions of the summit will take place in Male on May 12 and 14 respectively. On May 13, the second day of the summit,

Resignation of DSE councillors Parleys on to reach understanding

By Staff Correspondent
An understanding is likely to be reached shortly among the members of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on the issue of removal of the board of councillors of DSE, including its Chairman, who had been charged in the share market scam case.
Parleys between the groups supporting and opposing the Chairman, and other councillors continued yesterday. The group led by DSE Chairman Imtiaz Hussain feels that the incumbent council should be changed through an early election. The rivals have been stressing for unconditional resignation of all the council members.
Three council members including the vice chairman have already resigned.
The rebels had been pressing the council members for submitting their resignation letters to pave the way for bringing a change in the management of the exchange.
Raquibur Rahman and AG Azam Chowdhury, two influential council members, submitted their resignation letters first and were followed by DSE Vice Chairman Anwarul Hossain. Honorary secretary general of the DSE Shabiq Khan, former honorary secretary general M A Huq Hawladar and former chairman Khwaja Golam Quddus along with incumbent chairman Imtiaz Hussain were yet to quit the council body.
They reportedly said that they were ready to resign if there was an understanding between the two groups.
The rival group had threatened to call a requisition meeting if the other council members failed to resign within the stipulated time but the notice for the meeting was yet to be announced.
To a mend DSE constitution and hold the next election an Extra-ordinary meeting will have to be called.
Meanwhile, the DSE All Share Price Index declined by 74 points yesterday.
The DSE index closed at 1045.41 points from 1119.37 points on the previous day. Out of 134 traded issues 62 gained and 67 suffered losses while 5 remained unchanged.

2 electrocuted in city

By DMC Correspondent
Two persons were electrocuted in the city yesterday.
Tajul Islam, 27, died from severe burn injuries he had received in an electric short circuit at Jurain under Demra thana in the afternoon. Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) sources said.
Two others — Akmal, 24, and Delwar Hossain, 22 — were also injured in the incident.
However, Demra police said they did not have any information in this regard.
In another incident, Afzal Hossain, 25, a mason, was electrocuted when he was working in a house at Lake Circus in Kalabagan at about 1 pm. DMCH sources said.

'Lal Darja' adjudged best film

NEW DELHI, May 7: An Indian Bengali film 'Lal Darja' directed by Buddhadev Dasgupta was adjudged the best feature film in the 44th National Awards for 1997, declared here yesterday, reports BSS.
Bangladesh film artistes Champa and Asad played the lead role in the 'Lal Darja' which bagged the award for its 'poetic presentation and exploration of the complexities of human relationships in a contemporary urban milieu'.
The award carries 'swarna kamal' and a cash prize of rupees 50,000 each to the producers, Ms Chitrani Lahiri and Mr Dasgupta.
Mainstream cinema dominated the list of winners with Kamal Hasan walking away with the best actor's award for his vigilantism in the Tamil film 'Indian (Hindustani)' while Tabu was acclaimed for her sensitive portrayal of a woman trapped in the vortex of conflicts in the film 'Maachis'.
AL constitution

Medical colleges

From Page 1
the authorities concerned to take legal steps against the accused unauthorised medical institutions. The government however advised the institutions concerned not to participate in illegal activities.
The handout said, some individuals and private organisations has been conducting medical teaching with establishing private medical and dental colleges without any approval of Bangladesh medical and Dental Council.
The government has requested the people not to be frauded by taking admission in such institutions. If any one wants to inform about the admission or approval of the government medical institutions, they have been requested to contact with the health department or Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council, the handout said.

RU incident Probe body team meets teachers

From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAH, May 7: The probe body set up by the government following the incidents in Rajshahi University on April 26 visited the campus today. The enquiry committee led by Mukhtar Chowdhury, Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry, includes Farrukh Ahmed Chowdhury, Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIGP). They had a four-hour long meeting with the teachers of the university.
Meanwhile, some 25 students now on bail out of 125 arrested on April 26 following the incidents, at a news conference at the university press club this evening claimed they were neither the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) nor Bangladesh Chhatra League or any organisation.
The TTAB raised its objection in the meeting held on April 5 against the proposal, but later agreed to the new provision until the matter is resolved within two months.
The sources said the tea growers proposed the new provision complaining that they had a substantial loss because of the free sample.

'91 children, 30 women rescued from traffickers since Jan '97

By Staff Correspondent
A total of 91 children and 30 women were rescued from the traffickers since January this year, according to media reports compiled by the Ain-O-Salish Kendra.
Some 65 traffickers were also arrested during the period. The figure is higher than that of 1996, when 84 children and 45 women were recovered and 71 traffickers arrested.
The Ain-O-Salish Kendra, referring to news items published in the national dailies, said the traffickers targeted boys aged between six and ten, and girls over ten.
Earlier on Tuesday, a team of the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) had rescued three other minor girls from the same brothel. The team, led by BNWLA's executive director, Salma Ali, walked into the 'red light' area and rescued the girls aged between 10 and 12.
After coming to the association's office, the girls narrated their ordeals. They said some people had brought them to Dhaka giving them assurance of jobs in garments factories.

HC verdict

From Page 1
Barrister Amir-ul Islam placed their arguments in favour of writ petitioners while Attorney General Barrister KS Nabi assisted by Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan and Deputy Attorney General Kaiser Uddin Ahmed for the government.
The main changes in the constitution include, expanding the size of AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) from 65 to 76 members, readjustment of population ratio for nominating councilors and other minor changes.
The post of joint secretary was renamed as 'Joint General Secretary' and now there would be three Joint General Secretaries of AL instead of two joint secretaries previously.

HSC exams

From Page 1
Plainclothes policemen will be engaged in checking spread of any rumour regarding question-paper leakage and sale or purchase of anything in the name of leaked question paper.
Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Police has prohibited movement of more than four people within 200 yards of examination centres to ensure holding of the examinations peacefully.
Education Minister ASHK Sadique in a message on the eve of the examinations wished the examinees success and urged college teachers to discharge their responsibilities entrusted to them properly.
It is the duty of all citizens of the country to maintain peaceful atmosphere in and around the examination centres," said the minister.
Sadique said the government, guardians, teachers and mass media would have to work together so that anti-social elements could not do any business, hatch conspiracy and jeopardise the examinations.
The education minister in a letter to Home Minister Rafiqul Islam sought sincere cooperation in maintaining law and order and checking publications of fake question papers and spread of rumours.
In his letter, Sadique mentioned that a vested quarter was active to jeopardise the examination activities and they might mislead the examinees and guardians through distributing fake question papers.

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Rs 30 cr Indian credit for Rajshahi power project

NEW DELHI, May 7: The Bangladesh government is financing the Rajshahi power distribution project Phase-II from the credit line of Rs 30 crore extended by the government of India, Minister of State for Power Dr S Venugopalachari informed Lok Sabha in a written reply to a question today, reports BSS.
He said during the recent Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting Bangladesh side stated that they had a supplementary requirement for rupees seven crore for completion of the project.
Indian government is providing funds for three countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan for power projects, he added.

Weekly tea auction cancelled in Ctg

The year's maiden weekly tea auction in Chittagong scheduled for yesterday was not held as a section of traders raised objection prior to the sale over a new provision of free tea sample for them, reports UNB.
Auction House sources said the free sample was slashed by one kilogram for both tea leaf and dust tea in a tripartite meeting of Tea Board, Cha Sangsad and Tea Traders Association of Bangladesh (TTAB).
As per the new provision, the traders were to give two kg of tea leaf and one kg of dust tea.
The TTAB raised its objection in the meeting held on April 5 against the proposal, but later agreed to the new provision until the matter is resolved within two months.
The sources said the tea growers proposed the new provision complaining that they had a substantial loss because of the free sample.
But the traders finally raised the objection prior to the auction about the new provision.
The Tea Board is likely convene a meeting shortly to resolve the problem, the sources said.

30 minor girls

From Page 1
were forced into prostitution.
Kotwali police sent the girls to a rehabilitation centre at Mirpur.
A case has been filed against the four persons under the Women and Children Repression Act of 1995, police said adding they were continuing their operation to rescue such girls from other places.
Earlier on Tuesday, a team of the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) had rescued three other minor girls from the same brothel. The team, led by BNWLA's executive director, Salma Ali, walked into the 'red light' area and rescued the girls aged between 10 and 12.
After coming to the association's office, the girls narrated their ordeals. They said some people had brought them to Dhaka giving them assurance of jobs in garments factories.

DU admission

From Page 1
The detailed seat arrangements will be available at all centres and in the office of the Faculty of Arts, Dean office sources said.
The seat arrangements are: Roll No 00001-01240 in Science Annex Building; Roll 01241-02885 in Begum Badrunnesa College; Roll 02886-04266 in Dhaka City College; Roll 04267-05306 in Home Economics College; Roll 05307-6781 and 06942-07756 in Curzon Hall; Roll 07757-07998 in Khandakar Mokarram Hossain Bhaban; Roll 07999-08898 in Udayan School; Roll 08899-09485 in University Laboratory School and College; Roll 09486-09985 in Dhaka University Central Library; Roll 09986-06941 and 09986-0335 in Dhaka University Science Library; Roll 10336-10585 in Business Studies Building; Roll 10586-11220 in Lecture Theatre Building; Roll 11221-13562 in Arts Building; Roll 13563-13742 in Institute of Modern Language; Roll 13743-14142 in Institute of Social Welfare and Research; Roll 14143-14656 in Institute of Business Administration; and Roll No 14657-15156 in Institute of Education and Research.

Ctg port

From Page 1
Shambhu in Dhaka last month, but failed to get any decision on the issue.
He alleged that the government was suffering from indecision being influenced by some vested quarters.
Presidents of Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association and Ship Owners Association Tarik Kamal and Tarik Anis Ahmed respectively were also present at the press conference.

CHT peace talks to resume May 11

Star Report
The fifth round of peace talks between the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) and the Parbatya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS), the political wing of Shantibahini, will begin in Dhaka on May 11.
The schedule remained unchanged so far, according to highly-placed official sources.
As per earlier practice to facilitate arrival of the PCJSS 'high command' at the tiny forest-clad mountain hamlet of Dudukchhara near the border with Tripura, the authorities 'neutralised or rolled back' 13 security camps including border guard posts on Tuesday, five days prior to the talks, the sources said.
The camps will be activated three days after departure of the PCJSS leaders after the talks, they said.
The last round of talks was held in the city in January. The talks had bogged down on the vital issues of land rights, withdrawal of the security forces from the CHT, formation of an autonomous regional council and expulsion of settlers.
The May 11 talks will coincide with a hartal in the CHT called by a settler-dominated group demanding inclusion of the settlers' representatives in the peace talks, retention of security forces in the CHT and protesting violation of the ceasefire by Shantibahini insurgents.
A group of settler students yesterday demonstrated in the city demanding security.

Ashura on May 18

The New Hijri (Arabic) year-1418 will begin tomorrow and the holy Ashura will be observed on May 18, an Islamic Foundation, Bangladesh press release said, reports BSS.
According to the press release, the decision was taken at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee held at the Islamic Foundation, Bangladesh yesterday. State Minister for Religious Affairs and President of the National Moon Sighting Committee Maulana Mohammad Nurul Islam presided over the meeting.
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World Red Cross day today

The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day will be observed throughout the country today commemorating the 169th birth anniversary of founder of the movement Jean Henry Dunant along with 170 countries around the world, reports BSS.
Chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), Maj General (Retd) Abdus Salam MP, will inaugurate the programme of the day at B A Siddiqui Red Crescent Nursing School adjacent to Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital at 8-30 am.

Gold seized

From Page 1
lounge of the airport at about 12:30 pm.
A first-aid crew of the Fire Service Department of CAAB, Mohazal arrived in Dhaka from Chittagong by a Dubai-Chittagong-Dhaka flight, sources at the Airport Customs said.
An official of the surveillance wing of ZIA quoting Mofazzal said he had taken the gold bars from one passenger on board.

Mobutu

From Page 1
The government says Mobutu, 66 and ailing with prostate cancer, will return to Zaire after the summit, probably over the weekend. But a government source and Western diplomats have hinted the trip could be a first step of Mobutu's final departure in the face of a rebel advance.
The plane left at about 10:15 am local time (0915 GMT).
The motorcade travelled through some heavily populated neighborhoods, but people on the streets ignored it. There was no indication that Kinshasa residents believed Mobutu was leaving for good.

Tagore's birth

From Page 1
has chalked out a day-long programme to celebrate the birth anniversary of the Nobel laureate.
The Cultural Affairs Ministry will organise various programmes at Shelaidah, Shahzadpur, Khulna, Dhaka and Patisar to observe the day.
The main programme at Shelaidah, Kurmitia will be inaugurated at 9:15 am today by Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury while it will be presided over by Prof Kabir Chowdhury, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader will be the special guest at the function.
People from all walks of life, including poets, litterateurs and artists from different areas of the country have already arrived at Shelaidah to attend the anniversary functions.
A three-day village fair will also begin on the occasion today.
Different socio-cultural organisations also chalked out programmes including discussion, Rabindra Sangeet session and poetry recitation allow the country.
Chhayana, a cultural organisation, yesterday organised a function at the Shilpakala Academy in the city.
Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television will put up special programmes today to mark the birth anniversary of the poet.
Besides, the national dailies will publish special articles on the life and works of the Nobel laureate.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

**The Daily Star
Chittagong Office**

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