

BLUE DART

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ON BOARD COURIER
EACH DAY EVERY DAY
TO INDIA

BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia at the photo exhibition marking the death anniversary of president Ziaur Rahman organised by JASAS at the Shilpkala Academy in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

EC provided Tk 100cr to jute, tea sectors

Bangladesh has so far received about Tk 100 crore from the European Community for the tea and jute sectors under the community's programme for providing compensation for export (Compex) earning reduction, reports BSS.

Briefing newsmen at a city hotel, the local European Commission (EC) delegation officials said Bangladesh was one of the few Asian and Latin American countries to receive such aid from the community for improving its export performance in potential goods.

The major project which was financed from the Compex was an appraisal of the jute sector. The appraisal enable International Development Agency (IDA) to extend to Bangladesh 200 million US dollars in the jute sector as adjustment credit.

In the tea sector, the Complex-funded projects initially complemented the actions undertaken in 'tea rehabilitation project' by the Community and United Kingdom.

The projects include tea estate link roads with bridges, preventive health care for tea estate workers, construction of earth dams and supply of irrigation sprinkling equipment for tea plantations and nurseries and sales promotions for Bangladesh tea abroad.

A 'tea development finance' project in also envisaged for

British study

From Page 1

"Huge bank loans crowd out more worthy borrowers and subsidised prices crowd out more efficient actual potential competitors," he said. The British envoy also pointed out the "real shortage" of management skill in the country.

Access to loan finance is not a major problem at this level, although there must be concern about the provision of equity finance following the events of last autumn, he said in a oblique reference to the recent capital market turmoil.

Pointing at the reform programmes, Walker said the response of the private sector to the reforms has not been particularly outstanding and has been insufficient to make serious inroads into poverty.

Despite industrial growth and increase in private investment, the GDP growth rate remained below 5 per cent, he said. "This means private investment will have to increase. Currently, it lags behind the regional levels."

The British high commissioner said the Overseas Development Administration, renamed as the Department for International Development, has helped the private sector in past and wants to continue to do so.

Earlier, Vice-president of FICCI Hugh Tweed welcomed the British envoy and said Bangladesh and Britain have excellent bilateral economic and cultural relations since the independence of Bangladesh.

Banking hours

From Page 1

bles for itself and all other scheduled banks in the country.

All banks will operate from Sunday to Thursday. They will work between 8:30 am to 5 pm with a break for lunch from 1 pm to 1:45 pm, according to a BB press release.

The banks will transact business between 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. Internal arrangements will be made for transactions during the recess from 1 pm to 1:45 pm, the press release said.

Judgement

From Page 1

Moudud Ahmed, said a minister, who is not an MP, can't make any statement relating to matters outside his ministry.

Barrister Moudud said Article 73(A) of the Constitution restricts making of any statement by a minister, who is not an MP, outside his ministry and as such delegation of power to the speaker is unconstitutional.

Appearing for the government, Attorney General Barrister KS Nabi said the matter is related to parliament and the speaker is the only authority to interfere in the matter and the High Court has no jurisdiction to interfere in the affairs of the parliament.

The attorney general further said the speaker has taken up the matter and not yet given any decision on it. Therefore, the matter still is subjudice within the parliament.

The High Court can't interfere in a subjudice matter of a parliament and it can't be dragged to the court, he said.

Clarification

By Staff Correspondent

M A Noor, lawyers for Dr Nazrul Islam, Chairman of Sociology Department of the Dhaka University, in a clarification to a news item headlined 'DU teacher asked to pay Tk 135000 to his estranged wife', published in The Daily Star yesterday said the information was 'materially incorrect.'

He said the First Assistant Judge, Dhaka, ordered "defendant to pay to the plaintiff her dower at Taka 30,001 and Taka 3,000 per month for three months of the *fidaiat* period that is Taka 9,000 in all." The court further ordered the defendant to pay past maintenance of his two children at the rate of Taka 3,000 each per month from July, 1996 to May '97 that is Taka 66,000 in all and the future maintenance at the rate of Taka 3,000 each per month but no future maintenance for the plaintiff.

The claim allowed by the court is, therefore, Taka 1,05,001 as against Taka 5,55,000 claimed by the defendant, he said, and added that the judge also found that the divorce given by the defendant was effective.

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Anniversary

From Page 1

The programmes include hoisting of black flag and National Flag at half-mast atop the party central office, *Khatme-Quran* at the mazar of Zia and the party office in the morning, and placing wreaths at the mazar at 9 am.

On the occasion, BNP thana and ward offices in the city will also arrange *milad mahfils*.

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, and central leaders of the party will distribute sweets among the destitutes at different places in the city.

A discussion meeting on the life of Ziaur Rahman will be held at the Shilpkala Academy auditorium at 4 pm. Begum Zia will attend the function.

Khaleda

From Page 1

party leaders and workers to resist the government's ill design and added that agitation programmes to that end would be announced soon.

Speaking on the occasion, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan claimed some 6,000 people including political activists were detained by the government under the Special Powers Act. Of the cases, 5,000 had no merits or grounds for detention, he added.

Mannan Bhuiyan also charged the government with attempting to destroy the judiciary by making aspersive comments about the High Court judges, sponsoring attacks on the Supreme Court building and destroying rule of law in the country.

Chief Whip of the Opposition, Dr Tofael Ahmed Chowdhury, Nasreen Ahmed, Dr Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, Dr Mohammad Anwar Hossain, Dr Abdul Mannan, Dr Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury, Dr Mostafa Chowdhury, Dr Shahadat Ali, Dr Hossain Mansur, Dr Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Dr Mohabbat Khan, Dr Rajib Bhuiyan, Sharifullah Bhuiyan, Dr Shahid Akter Hossain, Dr Sultan Shafi and Syed Gladuddin Ahmed.

The white panel candidates elected to the Senate are: Dr AFM Yusuf Haider, Dr Abu Ahmed, Dr AKM Sirajul Islam Khan, Nurul Amin Bepari and Rashedul Hasan.

The teacher representatives elected from the pink panel are: Prof Saad Uddin, Prof Abdul Momin Chowdhury and Prof Aminul Islam.

Voting started at 9 am and continued till 1 pm. A total of 909 votes were cast.

Two senators were selected through toss as four candidates scored the same tally 309. Of the two, one came from the white panel and the other from the blue panel.

Blue Panel

From Page 1

Press Sramik Federation and Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Karmachari Federation held a meeting with State Minister of Information Prof Abu Sayeed at his secretariat office yesterday afternoon.

They exchanged views on different issues including the Fifth Wage Board Award for the journalists and workers of newspapers and news agencies.

BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Secretary General Abul Kamal Azad, DU Vice-President Akther Ahmed Khan, General Secretary Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Press Sramik Federation Secretary General Bazlur Rahman and Sangbadpatra Karmachari Federation President Kamruzzaman Khan were present at the meeting.

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AIDS cases

From Page 1

AIDS. This is disgraceful for our country," says Rajai.

Mona Lisa, 19, agrees.

She says while literate people know better, superstitious villagers need more events like this one to get the message.

But some scientists argue you need more than words to stop the spread of HIV.

"Awareness is not enough," said Maurice Bloem. "You need to create an environment where people can start talking about sex and sexuality. We're talking about empowerment, especially for the groups that are vulnerable."

Bloem says the stigma attached to HIV and AIDS drives the problem underground, making it very difficult for health care workers to reach people who need treatment.

Bangladesh sets up internet home page

Bangladesh has stepped into the information superhighway by launching a web page on the internet earlier this month, reports UNB.

The permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations here has posted its home page, becoming Bangladesh government's first effort to put up its presence on the internet. said a message received here yesterday.

Bangladesh's presence on the web will make information instantly accessible to more than 50 million internet users around the world. It will be helpful in projecting Bangladesh to a much larger audience worldwide, the message added.

BCL activist shot dead in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, May 29: A Chhatra League activist was shot dead by rivals at village Binajuri in Fatikchhari thana of the district early today, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said 5-6 gunmen called Zahruddin Mohammad Babar out of his home at 1 am, took him to the nearby Binajuri canal and shot him to death.

Being informed police recovered the body this morning and sent it to the Chittagong Medical College.

Police said a murder case had been pending against the deceased with Raonan thana.

Ershad threatens withdrawal of support from govt

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad yesterday warned of a movement and withdrawal of support from the government if cases filed against his party leaders and workers were not withdrawn, reports UNB.

The delegation members, led by refugee leader Narayan Tripura, include 11 refugee representatives and three officials — District Magistrate of South Tripura and Sub-Divisional Officers of Sabroom and Anupur Sub-divisions.

After entering the Bangladesh territory through Ramgar thanhat, crossing the river Feni, the delegation visited Sonaiasha, Buddhopara, Jaliapara, Tabalchhari and Matiranga area to observe the Chakma refugee rehabilitation process.

The Indian team members talked to the Chakma returnees, enquired about their well-being and expressed satisfaction over the measures undertaken by the government to rehabilitate the refugees. Local officials were present.

Addressing a gathering near Dhaka Central Jail at Nazruluddin Road, the former president once again charged the BNP with unleashing a reign of terror against JP leaders and activists and filing false cases while it was in power from 1991 to '96.

Ershad himself went to a special court adjacent to the central jail where hearing of a case against him was held in the morning.

BISTEC

From Page 1

ment of Economic Affairs, said the proposal, which aims to form a trade chain around the Bay of Bengal, would partially circumvent two "mutually exclusive trading zones."

"SAARC wants to establish free trade by 2001 and ASEAN 2003," he said. "The natural thing to do would be to build a bridge."

He added: "UNDP and ESCAP have promised to fund projects within the new grouping. We are talking about 200 million US dollars initially."

Wage Board

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"We have failed to attain the

PM: Loss in public sector

From Page 1

rate of literacy even now what the East Asian countries had 20 years back. Besides, an acute crisis has come up in energy and power sector including infrastructure due to lack of sufficient investment," she said.

She said her government wants to move ahead by adopting short and long-term plans for development of infrastructure and flourishment of industry.