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The World on Time



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (L) chats with Vice President of the World Bank Mieke Nishimizu (R) prior to their talks at a Tokyo hotel yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

Rocket launcher

DFI interrogates arrested persons

Defence Forces Intelligence (DFI) personnel interrogated the four young men arrested in connection with the recovered rocket launcher for a long time yesterday, official sources said, reports UNB.

After the interrogation at DFI headquarters, they were sent back to detective branch office in the evening.

A DB official, said the arrested — Lulu, Sultan, Russel and Khabiruddin — would be produced before court today.

A top DB official said there is no question of controversy about DFI interrogation as they did it following a request from DB.

"We requested the DFI as they have modern facilities," he said, adding the army intelligence also took the recovered rocket launcher for safe-keeping.

Rocket Launcher

Abbas denies link with arrested persons

Juba Dal President Mirza Abbas yesterday alleged that the government (was) harassing him and his family members by filing 'false cases' against them, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference at a city hotel in the afternoon, the former mayor of Dhaka also accused the government of conspiring to destroy his political career by implicating him in criminal cases.

Mirza Abbas, also Joint Secretary General of the BNP, refuted the allegation that he had links with those arrested in connection with the rocket launcher recovery. He termed the news on the allegation as "totally false, fabricated and motivated."

A fair investigation will reveal the truth, he added.

Train service

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other local trains, one from Akhaura and the other from Chittagong reached Sylhet and later started their return journey.

A senior BR official told The Daily Star yesterday that BR took the decision to restore the rail link after it got 'safety certificate' from Occidental.

Quoting Occidental experts, he said there is hardly any chance of landslide at Magurchhara when a train runs through the area.

MLC Act

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time for recovery of larger amounts.

As short term measures to expedite loan recovery, the WB has suggested that the government should increase the number of judges in the MLCs. They should be appointed to deal with loan recovery cases exclusively. Retired judges could be hired through contract appointments.

Classified loans in the banks which are not recoverable should be written off to reduce the workload of bank staff and utilise their services for loans which can be recovered. The Bangladesh Bank should issue necessary directives in this regard, the WB recommendations said.

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Matlab killings

Tk 30000 reward for information to nab the accused

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, July 1: The DIG, Chittagong Range today declared a reward of Tk 30,000 for anyone informing the police of the whereabouts of the killers of the eight members of a family in Matlab thana.

The eight members of the family of Hazrat Ali, a farmer, were brutally murdered by some unidentified men early Monday while they were sleeping in their village home at Jorkhali under Kalakanda union of Matlab thana.

Police have set up a camp in the village and continued hunting the killers.

Police handed over the bodies to Majeda Begum, the lone survivor of the family.

According to the police and local people, the miscreants entered the house of Hazrat Ali Sardar, 50, and strangled eight members of his family by tying ropes and scarfs around their necks.

A dispute over landed property is reportedly the cause of the gruesome murders.

'Agreement of compromise won't be acceptable to CHT people'

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of Parbatya Chattagram Bahari Gana Parishad, Pahari Chhatra Parishad and Hill Women's Federation, at a meeting in the city yesterday reviewed the situation in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), says a press release.

The meeting, chaired by General Secretary of the Gana Parishad, Prasit B Khisa, said any 'agreement of compromise' without considering the "far reaching interests of the entire country's people, including the Jumma people, will not be acceptable to the CHT people and the three organisations."

It further said, "The consequences will be sad and dangerous if the government fails to fulfill the just demands of the hill people in order to appease extreme fundamentalists, extreme right wing and anti-independence forces. The government will have to bear responsibility in that case."

The meeting was attended by, among others, Samiron Chakma, Rabi Shankar Chakma and Debashish Chakma of the Gana Parishad, Ms Barika Chakma and Samari Chakma of the Women's Federation and Dipayan Khisa, General Secretary of the Chhatra Parishad (Sanchoy), its organising secretary Kahlyaching Marma and Dilip Chakma.

RU VC

From page 1
university, Inspector General of Police and the Commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

It was stated in the writ petition that the Senate of the university in its meeting dated August 12, 1994 elected a 3-member panel of Vice-Chancellor and on August 22 the Chancellor appointed the writ petitioner as the VC of Rajshahi for four years.

Barrister Maudud Ahmed and Abdur Razzak moved for the petitioner; while Attorney General KS Nabi represented the government and Senior Advocate S R Pal appeared for the Registrar of the University.

Accords signed

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It also aims at assisting sustainable development through enhancement of transport linkages between agricultural centres and industrial areas.

The project is expected to be completed by September, 2000.

Under the second agreement the OECF will give 8.71 billion yen for Pakshy Bridge construction phase-I which will establish a stable and economical transportation facility at Pakshy to strengthen the economic linkages between the northwest and southwest regions. The bridge will be located at about 300 metres downstream from the existing Hardinge Bridge over the Padma at Pakshy. The construction work will be completed by November 2002.

Under the third project which is engineering services for Narayanjanj-Narsingdi flood protection and irrigation, Bangladesh will get 339 million. The objective of the project is to minimise damage from floods, largely improve the agriculture productivity and alleviate poverty of the people in the project area.

The project is expected to be completed by May, 1999.

With the signing of the three agreements today the total OECF loan to Bangladesh now stood at 516.3 billion yen.

PM: Verdict

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budget, they have to go for any hartal programme."

The Prime Minister said every body must focus on growth and development for greater economic prosperity and well-being of the people.

The Prime Minister said: "The objective of our government is to eliminate poverty and improve the lot of our people. That is why, in the just passed budget, we did not impose any new taxes that will affect the common people."

She said she was confident about more investment in Bangladesh not only by foreigners but also by Bangladeshis living abroad.

Talks today

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ment Conference organised by Japan Chamber, JBCCEC, World Bank and Bangladesh Mission at New Otani Hotel tomorrow afternoon.

On arrival at Haneda Airport, Prime Minister Hasina was received by Shin Sakurai, MP, Uwatoko, Chairman, Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation, Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Rashed Ahmed and officials of the embassy.

Airport ceremonies over, the prime minister drove to Hotel New Otani in a ceremonial motorcade escorted by outriders. Large flags of Bangladesh and Japan were hung along the streets of Tokyo to welcome the Bangladesh Prime Minister.

BNP: Hartal

From page 1

said, adding it will also encourage smuggling into the country. Bhuiyan alleged that the government not only closed the sources of income of people through this budget, but also imposed tax load on the affected people.

Justifying the call for a half-day hartal from 6 am, he said BNP opted for the nationwide shutdown to build a resistance against the "anti-people, subservient" activities of this government.

"This hartal is to protect the country, economy, trade and commerce and livelihood of the people," Bhuiyan said, adding "We have to give reply to government's evil efforts accordingly through observing the hartal peacefully, making it a total success."

Law banning floor crossing by Pak MPs

ISLAMABAD, July 1: Pakistan today passed a stringent new law outlawing defection of politicians to other parties in Parliament in a bid to curb political horse-trading, reports PTI.

The new "Anti-defection bill" was passed with a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly this morning after it was introduced in the House by Commerce Minister Mohammed Ishaq Dar in the presence of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The 14th constitutional amendment to incorporate the anti-defection bill has already been unanimously passed by the senate, the Upper House of the Pakistani Parliament, last evening after a brief discussion.

With the passage of the new bill by both the houses of parliament, it would now go for the presidential assent to become an act.

Leader of the Opposition in the House, Benazir Bhutto, however, was not present in the House.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif termed the new legislation as an "historical significance."

BCL continues strike at IU

From Our Correspondent

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY, July 1: A deadlock has been prevailing in Islamic University for the last three days due to strike called by the Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P) demanding removal of the Vice-Chancellor Prof Imam-ul-Hoque.

The BCL is accusing the VC of corruption, nepotism and misappropriation of money.

The Islamic Chhatra Shibir also brought out a procession demanding trial of the Vice-Chancellor for his alleged corruption.

Clash over land in Barisal: 20 injured

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 1: At least 20 persons were injured, seven of them seriously, in a clash between two groups of people at Dena village under Sadar thana this morning.

According to police and witnesses, a dispute over land was the cause of the clash that started at 8 am.

A house was set on fire and hand bombs were exploded during the clash.

The seven seriously injured were identified as: Abul Kalam, Jamal Sarder, Babul Sarder, Khaleque Sarder, Ayub Ali, Haider Ali and Eskender.

A case was filed with Kotwali thana. Four persons were arrested.

cance" which would end the politics of horse-trading and blackmailing.

The most concerning aspect of the new bill, however, according to certain quarters, is that it has been kept outside the jurisdiction of the court.

The bill was yesterday introduced in the Senate by the Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz discussing the draft of the bill with the opposition members led by Barrister Altaf Ashan of the Pakistan People's Party of Benazir Bhutto.

Khalid Anwar, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, while defending the bill said that it will safeguard the parliamentary democracy and will put an end to changing loyalties of parliamentarians.

The defectors under the new law would not be able to lodge appeals with any of the superior courts in the country, he said, adding that it has been "excluded from the jurisdiction of courts to save the law from impairing its effectiveness."

Dacoity at house in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 1: A robbery was committed in the house of a businessman in the city Monday night.

The dacoits confined all inmates of the house to the bath room and made good escape after looting Tk ten thousand and gold ornaments worth over one lakh taka.

70,000 killed in Indian road accidents last yr

NEW DELHI, July 1: More than 70,000 Indians have died in the "anarchy" of country's roads in the past year, the highest road death toll in the world, a research institute announced here today, reports AFP.

About two-thirds of the victims were pedestrians, cyclists and "non-motorised road users," said AK Gupta, director of the Central Road Research Institute.

The increase in the number of vehicles and lack of a proper public transport policy has led to anarchy on the roads," Gupta said at a seminar entitled "road traffic safety and human rights."

More than 2,000 people died in Delhi last year in road accidents. The Indian capital has around three million vehicles on its roads.

Driving in Indian cities is notoriously dangerous, where few road safety rules are respected. The situation is aggravated by the fact that drivers' licences can often be bought without a test.



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Manikganj by-polls

Candidates asked to submit expenditure statement

The Election Commission has asked all the candidates in Manikganj-3 by-election to submit their election expenditure statement within 15 days of gazette notification of the elected candidate, reports UNB.

A candidate or his election agent can submit the statement in a prescribed form with an affidavit to the returning officer. Copies of the statement and affidavit should be sent to the EC Secretariat by registered post, said a press release yesterday.

If a candidate or his agent fails to submit the statement within the stipulated time, he will be charged with violating the law and may be awarded maximum seven-year and minimum two-year rigorous imprisonment with fine, the press release added.

Transport strike in 10 southern dists called off

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 1: The transport strike that began on June 24 in ten southern districts has been called off.

The transport union leaders withdrew the strike following the Divisional Commissioner's assurance that stern action would be taken against extortionists and other miscreants.

The owners of tank lorries have also been assured of adequate security measures for their vehicles.

Bangladeshi student electrocuted in India

NEW DELHI, July 1: A Bangladeshi student studying in the Aligarh Muslim University was electrocuted at his room yesterday, a source in the Bangladesh High Commission said here today, reports BSS.

Khondoke, Feroz Ahmed, 20, a student of final year BA got electrocuted while cleaning a water cooler in his room. Son of Abdul Qader, a teacher of Siroil High School, Feroz hails from Ghoramara, Boalia in Rajshahi district.

The body of the deceased is expected to be flown to Dhaka at the earliest, the High Commission source said.

Raghunath takes over as Indian Foreign Secretary

NEW DELHI, July 1: K Raghunath today took over as the Indian Foreign Secretary from Salman Haider, reports PTI.

Haider, who was on one year's extension, has not been given any assignment so far.

Raghunath, a 1962 batch IFS officer, hitherto Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, has served in various capacities including as India's high commissioner to Bangladesh.

This was the first reaction by Ershad to the rebel leaders of JP led by Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shah Moazzem Hossain who held a council on Monday and elected fresh leadership.

Gold worth Tk 24 lakh seized at ZIA

The customs surveillance team at Zia International Airport seized smuggled gold and gold ornaments from a home-bound passenger on Monday night, reports BSS.

Sources in the customs surveillance said they challenged Mohammad Kabir Hossain at the green channel when he tried to escape with the precious metal. Kabir landed at the airport at 12-15 am from Kuala Lumpur by a Malaysian Airlines flight.

The customs officials seized 34 gold bars weighing 340 tolas from his keds. They also recovered 114 grams of gold ornaments from his bag. The price of the seized gold and gold ornaments is about Taka 24 lakh.

Later, the passenger was handed over to Cantonment police station. Kabir is the son of Mohammad Ali Akbar of Parpara under Bandar thana in Narayanjanj district, police said.

14 Indian fishermen held in Patuakhali

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, July 1: Police arrested 14 Indian fishermen with their trawler from a river in Patuakhali yesterday.

A case was filed accusing the fishermen of illegally entering Bangladesh.

The fishermen in a statement said their trawler "FB Janggeswar" kept on floating since Sunday due to engine trouble and at last they reached Patuakhali at about 10 am yesterday.

The Indians are, Jayder, Sankar, Anil, Santi Ranjan, Gouranga, Bipul, Sunil, Susanta, Janggeswar, Akhil, Surcharanjan, Prodyot, Dulal, and Nivas.

The body of the deceased is expected to be flown to Dhaka at the earliest, the High Commission source said.

Bankruptcy

From page 1

formulate rules and regulations for effective implementation of the act.

The sources said one special court will be constituted in every district and two courts each in Dhaka and Chittagong for disposing of the bankruptcy cases.

Additional district and sessions judges will try the bankruptcy cases, the sources added.

Post-polls violence

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League in Manikganj.

After defeat in Monday's by-election to Manikganj-3 seat, the terrorists belonging to Awami League and its front organisations resorted to terrorism and loot in different parts of the district," he said in a statement.

Bhuiyan alleged they attacked and damaged the business establishments of BNP leaders at Hizulla bazar yesterday noon.

They, he said, attacked and ransacked Rajib Enterprise, Abdus Salam Traders, Zennat Enterprise and Firoz Hardware and looted goods worth about Tk 10 lakh.

The BNP leader strongly protested the "terrorist" activities and demanded immediate arrest of the attackers.

Soft porn

From page 1

about Tim Henman or Greg Rusedski's choice of underwear or their body shapes," said Banks, referring to the top two British men's tennis players.

"Yet Monica Seles is having her body examined as though she was on an operating table and references to top players like Martina Hingis and Anna Kournikova are as much about their looks as their tennis," he added.

"Perhaps we should ask the women, to what extent are they being pressurised by the sponsors."

USAID project

From page 1

The USAID says controlling population growth and reducing mortality are most critical development problems of Bangladesh. Its current population is expected to double to about 255 million in 35 years, given the present 2 per cent growth rate.

The goal of the 8-year project is to stabilise the population growth by year 2004.

No conspiracy can destroy JP: Ershad

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said no conspiracy would succeed in destroying his party whose main target is welfare of the people and the country, reports UNB.

"Those who are conspiring against us think Jatiya Party is their main rival," he said in an oblique reference to BNP and Zafar-Moazzem faction.

This was the first reaction by Ershad to the rebel leaders of JP led by Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shah Moazzem Hossain who held a council on Monday and elected fresh leadership.

The JP chairman was addressing party's Ramna thana union conference at Madhubagh School ground in the city in the afternoon.

Ershad criticised the Awami League government for the 1997-98 budget, saying it would not come for welfare of the people.

Appointments and transfers

By Staff Correspondent

The contract appointment of Chairman of the Administrative Appeal Tribunal Justice D M Ansaruddin Ahmed, a retired judge of the High Court, has been extended for one year with effect from June 4, according to an official announcement.

AFM Yahya Choudhury, Private Secretary-1 to the Prime Minister, has been transferred to Commerce Ministry for appointment as Economic Minister in Bangladesh High Commission in London.

Khandaker Mohammad Abu Bakr, joint-secretary, Law Ministry has been promoted as additional secretary in the same ministry. Mohammad Giasuddin, DG, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been promoted as deputy secretary to the Prime Minister's Office, to be appointed as a DG, PMO.

Sohrabuddin Ahmed, joint secretary, Textile Ministry has been transferred to the Religious Affairs Ministry. Mohammad Abdul Latif Mandal, joint-secretary, Environment and Forest Ministry has been transferred to Finance Ministry S M Lutfulah, Project Director, of Registered Private Primary School Project has been transferred to the Environment Ministry AMM Rezae-Rabbi and Mohammad Abdul Ghani, both directors of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption, have been transferred to Land Ministry as Joint-Secretaries. A N M Abdullah, Director of Export Promotion Bureau, has been appointed Chairman of Film Development Corporation.

The body of the deceased is expected to be flown to Dhaka at the earliest, the High Commission source said.

Errata

In a news item under the headline '4 foreign cos submit proposals' published in The Daily Star yesterday, it was inadvertently mentioned that the proposals were submitted to the Power Development Board. In fact, they were submitted to the Power Cell under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. We regret the error.

Rohingyas

From page 1

pushed back over 1100 Rohingyas who sneaked into Bangladesh territory illegally, the sources said.

According to unofficial estimates, over 3,000 Rohingya refugees entered Teknaf and adjoining areas in the past two months due to crisis of food, unemployment and forced labour in Myanmar.

Meanwhile, the district administration of Cox's Bazar organised some meetings at Teknaf and Ukhia urging the union parishad chairmen, members and other people not to shelter the infiltrators.

Degree results

From page 1

Faizunnesa College, Laksham, jointly stood second, and Md Amir Hossain (roll-Laksham 132543) of Nawab Faizunnesa College, secured third place.

Among the BSc (pass) successful candidates, 88 obtained first division, 3,431 second division and 1,543 third division.

Ripon Kumar Saha (roll-Gazi 206363) of Kazi Azimuddin College, Gazipur, stood first securing 685 marks. Khondaker Md Raquibul Haq (roll-Dhaka 208863) of Dr Malika College, Dhaka, occupied second position with 681 marks and Rimi Afroz (roll-Narayan 207028) of Government Tularam College, Narayanjanj, obtained third position having 675 marks.

In the B Music (pass) exams, one got first division, 12 second division and one third division.

Chandan Kumar, said of Government Musical College, Dhaka (roll-4612) stood first securing 635 marks.

In the Certificate Course examinations, out of 3466 candidates, 1,365 came out successful. The percentage of pass is 95.76.

A total of 2,13,510 students from 687 colleges of the country appeared in the examination of 1996 under the National University.

Employees and workers of Monno Ceramics held a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding reopening of the factory. — Star photo

Li for reunification

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minted 'Special Administrative Region'.</