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AL planning peace march from CHT

By Nazmul Ashraf
The ruling Awami League is planning to organise a peace march from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) against the opposition BNP's long march towards the region, sources in the party said.
Minister without portfolio Kalpanarajan Chakma, Dipankar Talukdar and Bir Bahadur, the three AL MPs elected from the CHT districts, are likely to organise the peace march, the sources said, adding details of the programme was yet to be finalised.
BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia announced the long march from Dhaka on June 9, after observing a day-long hunger strike along with her party MPs on Tuesday.
Khaleda Zia's announcement for the long march was
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UNSC deplores Indian N-tests

UNITED NATIONS, May 14: The UN Security Council today strongly deplored India's nuclear tests after Pakistan ally China dropped demands for an outright condemnation, report agencies.
In a statement adopted by consensus among the 15 members, the Council said it "strongly deplores" India's three tests on Monday, followed by two more on Wednesday "despite overwhelming international concern and protests."
The Council "strongly urges India to refrain from any further tests," the statement said, expressing concern at the tests' effects on regional peace and security.
Meanwhile the White House

today expressed concern at signs Pakistan is preparing a nuclear test and strongly urged it not to go ahead, a senior US official said.
The United States has "strongly urged" Pakistan not to follow India and carry out a nuclear test, US Deputy National Security Advisor Jim Steinberg said.
Pakistan today rejected global appeals for restraint and told the world's disarmament forum that it too needed a nuclear defence in the face of five underground tests set off this week by neighbouring India.
Nuclear weapons proliferation is now a fact of life in

South Asia." Pakistani Ambassador Munir Akram told the 61-nation Conference on Disarmament.
"Indian actions, which pose an immediate and grave threat to Pakistan's security, will not go unanswered," he said. Pakistan "will accept obligations" in restricting its self-defence capabilities only if they apply to all countries equally.
Akram left open the possibility that Pakistan would launch its own series of tests.
Japan, India's biggest aid donor, today announced tougher sanctions against India over its nuclear testing, suspending new yen loans and temporarily withdrawing
See Page 12 Col 4

Indian N-tests. Call JS standing body meet soon, BNP urges govt

The BNP has called upon the government to convene immediate meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs to discuss the issue of five underground nuclear tests conducted by India on May 11 and 13, reports UNB.
In a statement yesterday, members of the standing committee Prof. A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, M. Morshed Khan and Shamsul Islam said in the wake of five Indian nuclear tests, strong negative reactions are pouring in from the countries across the world.
But, they said, the reaction of the government was conspicuously by its silence.
The opposition leaders said the country has remained in the forefront of the international efforts aimed at promoting disarmament including the strengthening of the Non-Pro
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Tk 2150 cr budget for CHT development

By Staff Correspondent
The government has planned various development projects for the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) with an estimated budget of about Tk 2150 crore.
The Special Affairs Division has already prepared a need assessment report on development activities to be taken up immediately and on short, mid and long term basis with a budget of Tk 2149.17 crore in the next five years. Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad and Chairman of the National Committee on CHT Abul Hasnat Abdullah told a press conference in the city yesterday.
Held at the NEC auditorium at the Planning Commission, the press conference was also addressed by State Minister for Planning and Science and Technology Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta.
Abdullah said that a joint GOB (Government of Bangladesh)-Development Partner Group, comprising representatives of the development partners, the Planning Commission and the Special Affairs Division, has been formed in this regard. A Need Assessment Mission, working on the issue, will soon submit its report to the government, he said.
In the current fiscal year, Abdullah said, block allocations for the development of CHT region had been raised from Tk 25 crore to Tk 28 crore and from Tk six crore to Tk nine crore for the three local government councils in the CHT. Besides, another Tk eight crore was allocated for implementing new projects in the region.
The NCCHT chief said the major problems in the CHT
See Page 12 Col 5



Shaukat Osman is no more

By Staff Correspondent
Eminent litterateur Shaukat Osman is no more. He died at the Combined Military Hospital in the city at 7:40 am yesterday. He was 82.
The prolific writer had been suffering from various ailments for quite a long time and was admitted to the CMH last month.
On hearing the shocking news, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina rushed to the hospital and consoled the bereaved family members.
Shaukat Osman left behind his wife, four sons one daughter, a host of relatives and numerous admirers of his literary talents to mourn the death.
His body will be taken to the Bangla Academy at eight this morning and later to the Central Shaheed Minar so that people from all walks of life can pay homage to the great novelist. His mortal remains will remain there from 8:30 am to noon.
The namaj-e-yanaz of Shaukat Osman will be held at
See Page 12 Col 1

Regional Council Bill curtails power of JS, says Khaleda

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, May 14: Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia today accused the government of creating an alternative government in CHT through the discriminatory Regional Council Bill, reports UNB.
"This bill has curtailed the power of sovereign Parliament. Now the Parliament, which can make laws for all areas in the country, will need permission from the regional council to formulate any law for the Chittagong Hill Tracts," she said.
The BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament was addressing a big public meeting at Sonachandi High School ground in Nachol thana of the district today.
"We will not accept the CHT accord, nor it is acceptable to the countrymen," Begum Zia said, adding that two systems cannot exist in one country.
She said the BNP has called the Long March towards CHT to protect the country's sovereignty and integrity.
The former prime minister said there is no alternative but to oust the present government
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Rape victim's 'safe custody'!

By Staff Correspondent
A gangrape victim in an advanced stage of pregnancy and presently under safe custody, has been handcuffed to her bed at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.
The young woman, Bakul (not her real name) was forcibly picked up from her house in Belmura area of Savar thana allegedly by one Alam on April 30 and taken to the bank of a river nearby. She said, a gang of four then raped her repeatedly and at one stage, she lost consciousness. She also said she had identified two of the gang members - Alam and Mintu.
Bakul, 20, originally from Char Kamalpur of Kaliarchar thana in Kishoreganj district had come to Savar in the middle of December last year in search of work. The only child of her parents, Bakul had grown up with her uncle because her parents had died when she was a tiny tot.
Bakul said she did not know why she was handcuffed like a criminal, but added that since she was expecting a baby and was in pain, the jail authorities sent her to the hospital.
A soft-spoken Bakul said after coming to Savar, she took up a job as a part-time maid and rented a house for Tk 200 a month. She was acquainted with Alam, son of Salah from Ulai area of Savar, who tried to court her. Several months ago, Bakul said, Alam forced her to give in and she conceived.
"I went to his father, my landlord and to many other
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Handcuffed Bakul at the DMCH. —Star photo

Bangabandhu murder 9 absconding accused traced in 6 countries: Home Minister

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam yesterday said nine of the 14 absconding accused in the Bangabandhu Murder Case were traced in six countries, reports BSS.
"Four countries have confirmed the presence of five absconders, and we have traced four more absconders in three countries," he told reporters on his return from a 10-day visit to Interpol Headquarters in Paris and London.
Whereabouts of five others could not be known, he said.
Rafiq said the Interpol authorities have issued red notices to its member countries providing the descriptions of the absconders as requested by the government.
Those who have been traced are Major Bazil Huda in Bangkok, Major Mohiuddin in the USA, Captain Kismot Hashem and Lt Nazmul Hassan in Canada and Col Abdul Aziz Pasha in Zimbabwe.
Besides, Col (dismissed) Abdur Rashid, Major Noor Chowdhury, Major Rashed Chowdhury and Ahmed Shariful Hossain were traced in Libya, Germany and the USA respectively.
The home minister said Major Shariful Haq Dalim, Captain Abdul Majed, Captain Moslem Uddin, Subedar Marfat Ali Shah and Lance Naik Abul
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Manipulation of balance sheet Orion Infusion hides default loan status

By Inam Ahmed and M Shamsur Rahman
To unsuspecting share market investors, Orion Infusion looked a good company to invest in. Its dividends were high, its future plans rosy and profit substantial.
But these were all on paper. In reality, the company had manipulated its balance sheet which was certified by an auditor to hide the true picture of the company from the general public. Today the company is in deep trouble and is likely to face a money suit from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and investors are left in the cold.
As the watchdog of the capital market, SEC's role has come under a lot of questions, as it did not act on time.
A Daily Star investigation detected some serious discrepancies regarding the company's loans obtained from two banks. The company's balance sheet audited by Nizamuddin & Co showed an amount of Tk 12.47 crore in outstanding loans with Agrani Bank and another 4.97 crore with Janata Bank.
But documents obtained by The Daily Star clearly show that Orion Infusion had deliberately hidden the actual amount of the loan with Agrani Bank and its status. Orion Infusion, in fact, had Tk 21.49 crore loans with the bank as on June 30, 1996, the date on which the balance sheet was drawn. This is Tk nine crore higher than the amount shown in the balance sheet. Moreover, the total amount of the loan is in default category since December 1995. Its loan with Janata Bank, now at 5.69 crore is also in the default category.
The company's annual report for 1996 should have clearly mentioned the status of the loans which it did not. According to audit experts, the auditor of the company, Nizamuddin and Co, should have checked with the banks before certifying the loan status and the amount, which it had not done. Audit experts say this is a clear violation of the law.
Experts also point out that had the company truly reflected the loan situation, the balance sheet would have shown a different picture of the company and the investors could have taken informed decisions.
Managing Director of Orion Infusion Obaidul Karim acknowledged to The Daily Star that his company's balance sheet carries inaccurate information regarding the loan status and amount. He has also admitted that these are default loans.
"But since our factory was
See Page 12 Col 2

Billal murder Accused attack witnesses, threaten lawyer

By Court Correspondent
The accused in the Billal murder at the Titas Gas head office, attacked the prosecution witnesses and the informant of the case at the Dhaka District Judge Court premises yesterday. The attackers also threatened the prosecution lawyer of dire consequences if he continued to conduct the case.
According to witnesses, the accused persons Ferook, A. Rahman, Israfil, Zakir, Raisul Kabir, Abul Kalam Bhuiyan and others who were on bail, attacked the informant, S M Zillur Rahman, and the witnesses at the court premises when they emerged from the court room after a hearing.
The accused beat informant Zillur Rahman, witnesses G M Anwar and Ismail when they took shelter at the Bar Association Library, the witnesses said.
Later, Zillur Rahman filed a petition in this connection with the Additional Session Judge
See Page 12 Col 4

CU shuttle train comes under bomb attack again

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 14: The shuttle train on Chittagong University route came under fresh bomb attack near Bottali Bazar under Panchlaish thana this evening.
But no casualty was reported. Police said three unidentified youths lobbed some cocktails at the shuttle train, bound for the city, at about 6 pm today while it was passing beside a building behind a tannery at Bottali Bazar. The youths hurriedly fled from the scene. Police searched the locality to nab the attackers.
The shuttle train also came under bomb attack last week at Sholoshahar station when a guard of the train was injured.
Police said the attacks on the train were sequel to the recent violence at the university campus.

Do your jobs properly or quit, PM warns govt docs

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the physicians to stay in their respective working places in rural areas and provide best possible services to the poor and the deprived, reports UNB.
"You should rather quit the job if you can't fulfill the service conditions," she said while inaugurating the 15th national convention of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) at the Engineers' Institution premises.
Referring to the widespread allegation of non-availability of doctors in the thana health complexes, Hasina said service to the humanity should be major concern of the doctors.
"Where will the poor people go, if monetary consideration becomes more important to a doctor than the service to humanity?"
She said the physicians of the country should also think about the reasons why people go abroad for treatment.
The prime minister advised the physicians to follow the service rules and stay in their respective thana health complexes for greater interest of the nation.
She said the Health Ministry

Maid gangraped, two arrested

By Staff Correspondent
A teenage maid was gangraped inside a garage of a house at Abhoydash Lane in the old part of the city Wednesday night.
Police yesterday arrested Alam, an employee of a nearby video shop, and Anwar, a guard at the house where the incident occurred.
Sutrapur police produced the two FIR named accused before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday praying for a 7-day remand.
The 14-year-old girl was violated in the garage which is located near her employer's residence adjacent to the video shop, police said.
Police quoting the victim's complaint said Alam lured the maid into the garage at about 8 pm on the day of the incident.
Anwar came to the garage leaving his duty at the main entrance of the house. Later, the two violated the girl.
The victim was taken into safe custody after she filed a case with Sutrapur thana on Wednesday under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 1995.

Many billionaires show annual income below Tk 55000: Kibria

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria yesterday came down hard on the business community, saying that many of their members are not paying taxes, reports UNB.
"There are many billionaires who show their annual income below Tk 55,000 because they don't want to pay tax," he said at a pre-budget conference where business leaders proposed raising the income tax ceiling to Tk 100,000.
The daily Financial Express organised the conference at Hotel Sheraton in association with the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).
Kibria said foreign industrialists in Bangladesh pay taxes, but many local industrialists and trade body people do not pay taxes, rather they talk loud.
He suggested the trade bodies to carry out a survey to determine how many of their own people pay taxes honestly.
The Finance Minister avoided a direct comment on whether the government officials will be brought under the tax net as demanded by the private sector leaders. But he said, "Tax is a law and there should be no exception in law."
He agreed to the observations of economists and trade community people about the delay in legal service delivery system that affects economic and banking activities.
Delay in the legal process over hearing on financial disputes is a problem which needs to be addressed collectively, Kibria said, referring to a case filed following the 1996 share market scam.
He felt that many of the sick industries might have been saved if trade liberalisation was not done so quickly in early 1990s.
"But I don't have the time-machine to go back and undo the things," the Finance Minister said, brushing aside the idea of financing the non-viable units.
He said, "I can't press the banks to give more money to those industries which are not viable."
Former finance minister M Syeduzzaman, economist Prof Rehman Sobhan and Debapriya Bhattacharya, parliament

Correction

In our report titled, "Appeal against HC verdict rejected" printed Thursday the name A K M Shamsuddin should read A K M Shamsuddoha. We regret the inadvertent error.

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Shazneen murder CID verifying statements of the accused

By Staff Correspondent
Contractor Hasan and two other accused in the Shazneen murder were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.
The CID investigating team did not seek further remand of the three but prayed to the court for their confinement in the interest of the investigation.
A senior CID official said they might need to interrogate Hasan and others further as they were still not ruling out the possibility of any conspiracy and involvement of others in the killing.
Besides, the CID may further question the nine accused persons including the confessed killer Shahid when the investigators verify their statements given to police earlier.
Meanwhile, the investigating team continued questioning maids Parvin, Minu and four other carpenters who had been working at the Gulshan residence of Shazneen's father, Latifur Rahman.
Youngest daughter of the Chairman of Transcom Ltd, Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, was brutally stabbed to death in her bedroom at the Gulshan residence on the night of April 23.
Our court correspondent reported that after the end of a two-day remand, a CID team produced Hasan, supervisor Badal and carpenter Shoni Ram before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday afternoon. Police did not pray for
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Nari Samaj demonstrates in city against rape incidents

By Staff Correspondent
Sammilita Nari Samaj yesterday demonstrated and held rallies in the city to mobilise public opinion against the increasing rape incidents across the country.
Nari Samaj leaders and activists on board a pick-up van, traveled to different areas of the city and held rallies in front of the CMM's court, Sutrapur thana, Shabujbagh thana and at Mahakkhal. They also put up banners with the inscription "No more oppression on children and women will be tolerated" at different places.
Chanting slogans against women and child repression, the Nari Samaj leaders urged people to generate a mass protest against the repression.
Addressing the rallies, they
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Sammilita Nari Samaj brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting violence against women and children. —Star photo

Young man shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent
A young man was shot dead near the Madhumita Cinema Hall in the city yesterday.
Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources identified the dead as Hannan, 32, reportedly a businessman from the city's Nawabpur area. The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.
An unidentified young man shot him beside the cinema hall at about 6:30 pm. With fatal head injuries, he was rushed to the DMCH where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.
Further details were not available. When contacted, Motijheel police said they heard about the incident and their officer was investigating the incident. No case, however, was filed with police till filing of this report late last night.

No fresh SSC exams under 4 boards this yr

The SSC examinations held earlier under Dhaka, Rajshahi and Jessore boards will stand valid, reports UNB.
There will, therefore, be no fresh examination on any subject or paper, said an official handout yesterday.
Another handout said there was no incident of question paper leakage in any examination centre under Comilla Board.
So, the examinations held earlier under the board will also stand valid.