

Corruption case: Charge sheet against Begum Zia submitted

By Staff Correspondent
The Bureau of Anti-Corruption yesterday submitted charge sheet in one of two corruption cases against former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia. In the case, the former PM has been accused of canceling a 'final list' of 287 persons for appointment as sub-inspectors of police and appointing persons from her party, BNP, to those posts. None of those selected by the interim government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was ap- See Page 12 Col 6

BNP guidelines for long march announced

By Staff Correspondent
BNP yesterday announced guidelines for its two-day long march towards the Chittagong Hill Tracts in demand for scrapping of the CHT accord and the laws for its implementation. The 20-point guideline, containing details of the programme, was circulated to the party units in all districts yesterday. According to the guidelines, the long march will start at 7 pm on June 9 from Paltan Maidan in the city. Partymen from Rajshahi, Khulna and See Page 12 Col 2

**Bail granted
to Sweden
Aslam stayed**
The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed the operation of the interim bail granted by a High Court Division Bench on March 29, 1998 to the accused Shaikh Mohammad Aslam alias Sweden Aslam in a triple murder case, reports BSS.

The full bench comprised Chief Justice ATM Afzal, Justice Mustafa Kamal, Justice Latifur Rahman, Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf and Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury. On March 29, 1998, upon an application, a High Court Division Bench granted bail to Aslam. See Page 12 Col 1

Beauty has become a commodity that quite literally can be bought. Nowadays women are very conscious and regular about their beauty treatments. Every two weeks, a woman may spend TK. 500 on her face, hair, hands and legs. Read this week's cover story on the Dhaka's flourishing beauty business.



**Star MAG
TOMORROW**

**Inside Today
Article**
Crime and terrorism on the increase
What Task Lies Ahead of the Civil Society to Arrest It?
Column: Currents and Crosscurrents
by M M Rezaul Karim
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Focus
Pakistan ignores Clinton, and follows India to the nuclear brink
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Business
Continue 25pc alternative benefit scheme, BTTLMEA urges govt
DSE price index increases by 18 points
Pages 6, 7

US co to implement it on build-own-operate basis Govt okays \$500m Ctg port container terminal project

By Shehab Ahmed

The government has given a go-ahead to the biggest US container port operator, Stevedoring Services of America (SSA), to set up an international container terminal near the Chittagong port at a cost of about 500 million US dollars, shipping ministry sources said. They said the build-own-operate project, which would also have an inland container terminal near Dhaka, would be the largest single foreign investment project in the country.

The terminal near Chittagong Port will be partially operational in one and a half years' time and the whole project will be ready by 2001 and it will handle 600,000 containers annually, officials of SSA Bangladesh, the local affiliate of the US company said. They hoped that it would help Chittagong Port become a South Asian shipping hub, catering to local, regional and international trade.

The company officials said the inland container terminal will be built at Pangoon, on the other bank of river Buriganga at Pagla, near Dhaka. Both the terminals will be fully computerised and help ease congestion at Chittagong Port, the main sea port of the country. They will also help boost local trade, they said. The officials said preliminary work has already been started and work will begin in full-swing from October this year. The government has formed a project implementation committee to help its speedy implementation.

Congestion at Chittagong Port has reached a choking point as it is currently handling nearly 300,000 containers annually, far above its capacity, delaying loading and unloading. See Page 12 Col 3

South Asian nations should not waste money in arms race: PM

BANDARBAN, June 3: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said countries of poverty-stricken South Asia should not waste money in an arms race creating a tense situation in the region, reports UNB. "We don't believe in arms race, we want peace... We are deeply concerned over the situation created in the region," she told army officials at Bandarban cantonment this morning. She said the recent nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan have created anxiety in Bangladesh because of her geographical location. "Members of the armed forces will have to remain alert... If needed, the defence system should be further consolidated and our strategy should be changed in a changed situation."

"What is the justification of the arms race when the whole world is striving for peace," Hasina said, adding that her government is always in favour of peace. "We believe that any problem can be solved through discussion. The two countries can solve all the problems through negotiation," she said and referred to the tri-nation business summit in Dhaka, participated by both the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan. Peace is essential for humanitarian causes, said the Prime Minister, adding that her government would try not to let the situation aggravate further in the region. "If needed, I will visit the countries for the sake of peace."

The money spent in the arms race could be spent for the poor people of the region. This will help improve the condition of the distressed people, she said. Hasina said peace could be established and development process accelerated through the regional forum of SAARC. Referring to the restoration of peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Prime Minister said for last two decades there was no development in the region. See Page 12 Col 8



The young man on the left was arrested yesterday for removing the storm sewer grill near the Shishu Academy. One kg of the iron scrap fetches him two vials of Pethedine, he said. The picture on the right is a normal scene in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the source of 'cheap' Pethedine for the addicts hanging around. Star photo by Anisur Rahman

'Stricter laws a must to curb drug abuse'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a roundtable conference in the city yesterday called for all-out efforts by the government and the people to curb drug trafficking and drug abuse in the country. They suggested stricter enforcement of law to punish drug traffickers and close coordination among various ministries, government agencies and socio-cultural organisations to curb the menace. They said family can play the main role in preventing people from drug addiction.

The roundtable conference on "Drug Abuse: Prevention in Bangladesh: A Forward Looking Strategy" was jointly organised by the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), United Nations Information Centre and the Department of Narcotics Control at the CIR-DAP auditorium. The roundtable conference was arranged to prepare an action plan for Bangladesh to be placed at the UN General Assembly Session on World Drug Problem to be held in New York from June 8 to 10. National Professor Dr Nurul Islam participated in the conference as chief guest while Programme Coordinator of UNDP Khondakar A. Hafiz, Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury. See Page 12 Col 4

Contractor Hasan, an accused in the Shazneen murder in Gulshan on April 23, was sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday. CID produced Hasan in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday on expiry of a two-day remand. Our Court correspondent reported that a bail petition was moved on behalf of Hasan. The See Page 12 Col 5

PM's proposed visit Dhaka awaiting response from Delhi, Islamabad

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka is still awaiting the response from New Delhi and Islamabad relating to the proposed visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In separate letters to Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday, the Bangladesh Prime Minister said, "I would be happy to visit your great country at an early date to discuss the situation arising out of the nuclear tests and all issues of mutual interests." Sheikh Hasina wrote the letters in response to the letters from her Indian and Pakistani counterparts explaining their position on the nuclear tests. Explaining the gesture made by the Prime Minister, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday that Dhaka wanted to play a "pro-active role" in foreign policy matters, particularly in matters related to "our neighbours."

Shazneen murder Carpenter Shoni Ram, maid Parvin being interrogated

By Staff Correspondent

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We are optimistic, says envoy Colombo preparing to hold SAARC summit next month

By M Anwarul Haq

Sri Lanka is going ahead with necessary preparations for hosting the 10th SAARC summit in Colombo and is hopeful it will take place sometime next month. Talking to The Daily Star, Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Dhaka S B Autogoda said Colombo is now busy having the dates confirmed from member countries. "We are presently working on two sets of dates for the Summit. The revised dates of July 10 to 12 and the original dates of July 20 to 22," the envoy said. Sri Lanka earlier gave the revised dates, advancing the scheduled summit dates by 10 days after 'informal consultations' with all the countries concerned. "We are optimistic that the summit would be held in July to bring together the leaders of the seven South Asian nations," said Autogoda. Bangladesh, India and Pakistan have already confirmed their participation in the Summit on the revised dates of July 10 to 12, the envoy pointed out. "Sri Lanka is preparing for hosting the important conference. We are flexible about accepting both sets of dates. We would be in a position to host the Summit on whichever July dates the member-countries agree," Autogoda said. Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka Lakshman Kadirgamar was in constant touch with all the SAARC capitals and with the current Chairman of SAARC, Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, regarding the dates, he added. Diplomatic observers feel that the SAARC summit would provide the leaders of India and Pakistan the "first available opportunity" to meet on a common platform on the sidelines of the summit in an effort to ease tension following the nuclear tests by the two countries last month. The Sri Lankan foreign minister is expected to arrive in Dhaka next week and also visit the other SAARC capitals to See Page 12 Col 7

80 killed, 200 injured in German train accident

GERMANY, June 3: A high-speed passenger train derailed today in northern Germany killing at least 80 people and seriously injuring 200 as car after car of the train crumpled into the concrete base of an overpass, reports AP. The Hamburg-bound train was going 200 kilometres (125 miles) an hour when it derailed near the station in Eschede, 35 miles north of Hanover just before 11 am, officials said. The train was carrying about 300 passengers. Regional officials said 100 people were lightly injured, in addition 200 serious injuries. At least six survivors were taken to a public building in Hanover. The accident was the worst See Page 12 Col 6

**France '98
COUNTDOWN
6
Days Away**

Del Piero only halfway to top form

ROME, June 3: Alessandro Del Piero, pegged as Italy's leader at the World Cup, said Wednesday he is only halfway to top form but will not rush his return from injury, reports AP. The Juventus star was included on the 22-man roster even though a lingering right thigh strain has kept him away from the team practices for two weeks. "It's true I feel good, but on a scale from 1 to 10, right now I am at 5," Del Piero told reporters. "It is clear that to play I have to be in good form. I don't want to take risks. There is no room for false steps," the striker said. "The World Cup is long; it certainly does not end with the game against Chile." See Page 12 Col 4

3 Shibir activists held in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, June 3: Three leaders of Islami Chhatra Shibir unit of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College were arrested yesterday from their village homes for their alleged involvement in the killing of BCL activist Soumitra Biswas. The arrested are, Shahidullah of village Chandipur under Dagan Bhuiyan thana of Feni district, Jahangir Alam of village Kalipur under Banskhali See Page 12 Col 4

Delhi does not want confrontation with Beijing: Vajpayee Tension in South Asia must be blamed on India: Jiang

BEIJING, June 3: India is "targeting" China with its nuclear tests, but China will not resume its own nuclear programme, Chinese President Jiang Zemin said today. India has "aspired for a long period of time to be the main power of South Asia," Jiang said in a meeting with Agence France-Presse chairman Jean Miot. But "China has no intention of restarting its nuclear tests," he said in his first direct reaction to the series of nuclear tests carried out by India and Pakistan in recent weeks. China, a long-term ally of Pakistan, has strongly criticised India for its five nuclear tests over May 11 and 13. Two weeks later Pakistan detonated six nuclear devices in response. "The tensions in South Asia must be firmly blamed on India," Jiang said. While recalling the warm welcome and signs of friendship he received on his 1996 visit to New Delhi, Jiang said he was surprised by the tests, which clearly showed that "India is targeting China and Pakistan."

"China hopes that Pakistan will not respond and will make a wise decision. But the Pakistani government is faced with strong public pressure on the subject," he said. While China's foreign ministry reacted strongly to the Indian tests, and stated its total opposition to all nuclear testing, its reaction to the Pakistan tests was only one of regret, indicating the close links between Beijing and Islamabad. Jiang denied Indian allegations that Pakistan developed nuclear weapons through cooperation with China, and said their cooperation was entirely for peaceful ends and conformed with all international accords on the subject. Another report from New Delhi adds: Prime Minister

Atal Behari Vajpayee today said India did not want a "confrontation" with China but a "relationship in which both sides were responsive to each others' concerns." Vajpayee told parliament in a written reply that India sought "friendly, cooperative and a mutually beneficial relationship with China." He said, India was committed to "resolving outstanding differences (with China) through dialogue." Meanwhile, US President Bill Clinton called on the international community today to come together to reduce tensions between India and Pakistan and avoid a "dangerous" arms race in Asia, AFP reports from Washington. "The international community must now come together to move them to a reverse course and to avoid a dangerous arms race in Asia," Clinton said in See Page 12 Col 7

Non-govt pry teachers call off hunger strike

The non-government primary teachers withdrew their hunger strike last night following a fruitful discussion with the government, reports UNB. The teachers began a fast unto death on Sunday to press their five-point demand, including nationalisation of their service. They broke their hunger strike at 8:30 pm after an assurance from the government that their demand will be implemented in phases. Awami League leader Amir Hossain Amu, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, AL publicity secretary Abdul Mannan and Nurul Islam Nahid MP were among those who went to the striking teachers to convey the government assurance. After breaking the fast, leaders of the Non-Government Primary School Teachers Association, including its president Shamsul Alam and general secretary Akkas Ali Sheikh, called on Prime Minister See Page 12 Col 5

Thanas in city asked to keep records of people lobbying for cases

By Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam yesterday directed all police stations in the city to open separate files to keep a record of 'lobbyists' who interfere in cases unduly. In a special meeting with senior police officials and officers-in-charge (OCs) of all the 15 thanas in the metropolis yesterday, the home minister asked the OCs to maintain a record of people who lobby for cases and also for undue release of the accused in various cases. He also asked them to forward these files to the higher authorities for time to time checking. According to meeting sources, the minister told the police officials the names of

'lobbyists' have to be recorded no matter which party they belong to or how much powerful they are. Held at Rajarbagh Telecom Auditorium in the city, the meeting lasted some two hours. The meeting was convened by the minister against the backdrop of reported rise in incidents of crime in the city. The first meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on Home Ministry on Tuesday had also emphasised gearing up of activities by all the 15 city police stations to prevent deterioration of law and order. Police officials present at the meeting later told The Daily Star that the home minister

had instructed the OCs to take prompt action against terrorists, muggers, toll collectors and those who torture women and children. "You have to be accountable for any failure in taking prompt action", one police official quoted him as saying. The minister also noted that there were some allegations that the thanas did not take cases. Referring to manpower shortage in police force, the minister said he was ready to withdraw force from all ceremonial duties. Besides, he would not mind a 20 per cent cut in his protection force, he added. Rafiqul Islam instructed See Page 12 Col 3

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