The Daily Star

Beware! Mobile phone virus!

By Staff Correspondent

Mobile phone users, beware! There's a virus in the wild digital world that can virtually destroy your phone set, according to the internet news.

This virus transmitted through telephone calls can infect all mobile phones in digital system.

If you receive a phone call and your phone display "unavailable" on the screen, it is advised that you don't answer the call. Mobile phone users are suggested to 'end the call immediately. Because, if you answer the call, yours phone is likely to be affected by this virus.

This virus would erase all information from your phone and your SIM card, making your phone unable to connect with the telephone network. The only option that would be left with you is to buy a new phone set.

Some three million mobile phones have been infected by this virus in the USA.

Motorola and Nokia websites confirmed the existence of this virus.

Nor'wester hits Magura: 2 killed, 10 hurt

MAGURA, May 15: Two people were killed and at least 10 others injured during a nor'wester that swept the district this morning, reports UNB.

The storm accompanied by heavy rains destroyed over 500 thatched houses, uprooted several hundred trees and damaged standing crops on a vast tract of lands.

Local people said Jamarat Ali, 35, of village Ganjnala in Sadar thana and an unidentified day labourer aged about 30 were killed by lightning when they were working in the field during the storm.

At least 10 people were injured due to house collapse at different parts of the district. They were admitted to thana health complex and Magura General Hospital.

Police raid DU hall: 4 arrested

By DU Correspondent

Three non-resident students and an outsider were arrested from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of Dhaka University on Friday night allegedly for beating up the canteen manager of the hall.

The arrested were identified as Md Sharafat Ullah Mintu, a second year student of Mathematics, Pankaj Mallik, a second year student of Mathematics, Arifur Rahman Khan Lipton, a second year student of English and Idris Ahmed Chowdhury, who have completed study from Economics. None of them were resident students of the hall, sources said.

The raid carried out by plainclothes police, followed the incident of beating up of a canteen manager of the hall on Friday. Quddus, the manager, was beaten up on the hall premises allegedly by the accused and their accomplices at noon as he asked them to pay the overdue.

Police went to the spot soon after the incident but failed to arrest anybody. Later, they raided the hall at around 10:30 pm and arrested them from Room No 216.

Sources on condition of anonymity told The Daily Star. "The group, led by Apu and

See Page 12 Col 7

Inside Today

Article

Confrontational Politics and Terrorism

Column: Mohammad Siddiquer Rahman
Page 4

Law and Our Rights

Human Rights condition of the Rohingya refugees; Freedom of Press in 1998: Perspective Bangladesh; and Law Watch: A victim-sensitive Judgement in a rape case
Page 5

Prayer Timings

May 16

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-20
Zohr	12-45	1-30
Asr	4-45	4-55
Maghrib	6-40	6-43
Esha	7-55	8-10

Source: Islamic Foundation

Khaleda thanks government

Bridge ban goes after govt-BNP deal

Star Report

Bitter rivals of Bangladesh politics reached a surprise deal yesterday to defuse the high tension after the sudden ban on using the Bangabandhu Bridge by opposition marchers today.

As fears of confrontation peaked after the last Thursday, senior government and BNP leaders sat at the Secretariat and sunk their differences in a surprise development, much to the relief of all the parties concerned.

A happy BNP chief thanked the government for being prevailed upon by "good senses".

The government agreed to lift the ban as the BNP leaders promised to behave while leading the march, starting from Dhaka at 9am today, through the high-security multipurpose structure.

The government ban had been attributed to safety and security of the nearly-a-billion-dollar bridge, dubbed a key point installation (KPI). The home minister on Friday claimed that intelligence reports spoke of opposition plans for subversive acts during its march over the bridge.

BNP had announced that it would defy the ban.

The BNP leaders said at yesterday's meeting that they would not hold "any sort of public gathering" on the bridge or at least 10-km areas surrounding it.

Police brought the situation under control at about 4 pm and the opposition leaders also assured that they would help the government ensure safety and security of the bridge and guard against deterioration of law and order there during the march.

The BNP leaders said the convoy would pass the bridge in phases and would not be accompanied by bikers or pedestrians. They also agreed to pay toll for the vehicles in advance.

The rare demonstration of sanity from the two belligerent foes came after widespread concern from the civil society including the media, which decried the planned Dhaka-Panchgarh march.

Sources said a strong business lobby also expressed con-

See Page 12 Col 3

Commentary

We hope this marks a new beginning

By Mahfuz Anam

We are greatly relieved at the compromise that was worked out between the leaders of our two biggest parties, one forming the government and the other, the largest opposition. This newspaper has particular reasons to feel satisfied as it had appealed to the government to lift the ban, and to the opposition to give assurances for the security for the bridge. In a meeting yesterday afternoon both sides did their bit and a compromise was reached. We thank Home Minister Md Nasim and BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuyan for thinking about the greater interest of the country and going

beyond their petty party politics.

There are many reasons why we need to welcome this compromise. First of all because both sides had the maturity to actually make a deal. Normally what we have seen in the past is that once a party takes a position, be it the ruling party or the opposition, there is no shift. Solutions usually mean that the other side must come to where 'we' stand. But yesterday both sides came forward to solve the problem, both sides saw the compulsion of the other and also the consequences of a "no deal" situation. Both sides

See Page 12 Col 7

'Dialogue, if atmosphere, congenial'

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has said her party is ready to sit for a dialogue with the government to resolve "all problems" if it creates a congenial atmosphere.

"We will not reject any offer for dialogue if the government comes forward by creating a favourable atmosphere. Under a democratic system, it is possible to resolve all problems

See Page 12 Col 7

PM tells The Hague confce

Peace is fundamental human right

THE HAGUE, May 15: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged world leaders to forge a grand alliance to promote peace, democracy and human rights, banishing hatred, violence and war from the planet, reports UNB.

"Peace is a fundamental human right, not only to the right to life, it is value, an ideal and life-giving force that mankind can never abandon," she said as a five-day global peace summit ended here today.

Delivering her speech in the concluding session of the Hague Appeal for Peace conference at the Prins Willem Alexander Zaal (hall) in the morning, Hasina said: "We must establish a culture of peace transforming the cycle of suspicion into a cy-

cle of trust and love."

The international peace conference was held in this Dutch capital against the backdrop of raging Indian conflicts and regional wars in the post-Cold War era.

Hasina, who has been honoured with the UNESCO Peace Prize for striking the CHT peace accord, said: "Peace is not, in our view, a mere absence of war, conflict or violence. It is blissful state in which all the people can lead a worthwhile and meaningful life in accordance with their own wish."

She said this blissful state cannot, however, be attained unless war, conflict and violence are cast out.

The Bangladesh leader also

See Page 12 Col 3

BCL, Shibir clash at CU: 1 killed, 50 hurt

CHITTAGONG, May 15: One person was killed and about 50 others were injured in a gunfight between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir on Chittagong University campus today, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Jubair Hossain 27. He was a Shibir activist and a final year student of Economics Department. Police said the clash erupted between the two rival groups at about 12:30 am as Shibir activists kidnapped BCL Shahjalal Hall unit president Abul Kalam Azad from in front of Shah Amanat Hall at gunpoint.

The agitated supporters of Azad came out of Shahjalal, Shah Amanat and Suhrawardi Halls and locked in a clash with the Shibir activists.

During the three-hour clash, both the groups exploded crack-

ers and exchanged about 30 rounds of gunshots injuring more than 50 people, including Jubair.

Police brought the situation under control at about 4 pm and rescued BCL leader Abul Kalam from Hathazari area.

Of the ten injured, including four who suffered bullet wounds, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and the doctors stated their condition as critical.

They recovered Jubair's body from behind the Forestry Institute at about 8:30 pm.

Campus sources said the university authorities called an emergency meeting at about 8:45 pm over the deteriorating situation on the campus.

Female students were leaving their respective halls at night apprehending fresh violence.

See Page 12 Col 1

SA squeeze past India

HOVE, England, May 15: Jacques Kallis and Jonty Rhodes teamed up as favourites South Africa opened their World Cup campaign with a hard-fought four-wicket win over India here on Saturday.

South Africa, chasing India's 253 for five, were reduced to 116 for four in the 26th over before Rhodes joined Kallis in a revival that saw them home with 16 balls to spare in the group A encounter, reports AFP.

Kallis, who made 96, added 64 for the fifth wicket with skipper Cronje and then 38 off 36 balls for the sixth wicket with Rhodes, who finished with 39 not out as South Africa pulled out the stops in the tense final overs.

Kallis, who had made just 63 runs in five previous World Cup matches, fell short of a century when he was run out as Rhodes attempted a risky third run.

But Lance Klusener and Rhodes ensured South Africa's win with a flurry of boundaries as the Indians rued not making

an extra 20 runs in their innings.

Earlier, Saurav Ganguly scored 97 in his 100th one-dayer as India reached 190 for one in 40 overs, but managed to make only 63 runs in the last 10 overs.

The left-handed opener hit 11 boundaries and a six before falling victim to the irrepressible fielding of the irrepressible Rhodes.

Ganguly played Kallis to point where Rhodes, rated the best fielder in the world, swooped on the ball and threw to the bowler who broke the wicket with the batsman yards short.

Captain Mohammed Azharuddin, who had won the toss and elected to bat, hit

Kallis was named man of the match, although the 6,500-strong crowd wanted the award to go to Rhodes.

Rahul Dravid made 54 in a second-wicket stand of 130 with Ganguly after master batsman Sachin Tendulkar had fallen for a sedate 28 off 46 balls.

Tendulkar, playing his first international since February, sported the number 10 shirt made famous in basketball by Michael Johnson and football by Pele and Diego Maradona.

See Page 12 Col 4

SAURAV ON SONG: Saurav Ganguly, the Indian opener, playing on the on-side yesterday.   — AFP photo

TODAY'S MATCHES

West Indies vs Pakistan
Venue: Bristol
Live Coverage: BTV and ESPN (3:45 pm)

Australia vs Scotland
Venue: Worcester
Live Coverage: Star Sports (3:45 pm)

TOMORROW'S MATCH

Bangladesh vs New Zealand
Venue: Chelmsford
Live Coverage: BTV and ESPN (3:45 pm)

Zimbabwe beat Kenya by 5 wkts

TAUNTON, England, May 15: Zimbabwean Neil Johnson lived up to his all-rounder tag here on Saturday as he took four wickets and scored a half-century to ensure a five-wicket victory against Kenya in their cricket World Cup encounter, reports AFP.

Zimbabwe, chasing Kenya's 229 for seven, cruised home with nine overs to spare.

The victory came as a huge relief after Zimbabwean coach David Houghton lashed his team for playing "schoolboy cricket" in the run-up to the tournament.

Johnson, who has played most of his cricket for South African province Natal but was granted Zimbabwean citizenship last year, took four for 42 with his lively medium pace, including the key wicket of Steve Tikolo, before opening the innings and making 59.

Kenya, hoping for another World Cup scalp after their shock 1996 win over the West Indies, lost the toss but batted brightly as openers Kennedy Otieno and Ravindu Shah put

See Page 12 Col 1

Warne fined, cautioned

WORCESTER, England, May 15: Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne was Saturday fined and given a suspended two-game ban by the International Cricket Council for "bringing the game into disrepute," reports AP.

Warne sparked controversy with his criticism of Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga in a column in Friday's The Times newspaper.

"Frankly, Sri Lanka — and the game overall — would be better off without him," he wrote in the column.

ICC referee Cammie Smith handed down the penalty after a 30-minute hearing at Worcester, where Australia is preparing for its World Cup opener against Scotland on Sunday.

The West Indian official, one of six referees at the World Cup, fined Warne 50 per cent of his first World Cup game fee.

Pakistan slam 'tiny' English grounds

BRISTOL, May 15: Pakistan today slammed the "tiny" cricket grounds being used for the World Cup, saying they were keeping cricket lovers away from the sport's most important competition, reports Reuters.

Pakistan team manager Zafar Altaf, speaking at the 8,500-capacity Nevil Ground where Pakistan will play West Indies tomorrow, also criticised the timing of the World Cup, saying May was too early to stage the tournament in England.

Zafar told Reuters: "What the hell is 8,500 for a match of this importance. Come to the sub-continent and I'll fill a stadium

See Page 12 Col 6

Beyond the boundary

Mind over matter (well, almost)

Shakil Kasem

India came close to pulling off the impossible. In the end the all too familiar trait of choking when the chips are down flushed Indian pretensions down the drain. For Azharuddin this match is likely to haunt him for the rest of his stay in England. India had the South Africans on the run for a substantial portion of the match, that is before a series of blunders by the Indian captain and shoddy bowling by the senior pro handed back the match to SA, on a platter.

It was always on the cards that with a batting lineup that really has no indication of a tail, the South Africans could chase any target till the cows came home. Why the Indians chose to attack rather than defend their not so inconsequen-

tial total baffles even the layman. Ringing bowling changes after holding referendums in the middle showed up Azharuddin in very poor light. The Indians played well in the field, raising their fielding to heights they themselves had been unfamiliar with. In the end their captain's inept handling of the situation in the end overs left them bruised and battered for no reason at all. India had got off to a very

good start. Tendulkar played himself in , playing a lot of his customary shots in the process. Just after he had done all the donkey work he chose to give Klusener a totally undeserved wicket. The next wicket that Klusener got was about 150 odd runs later, when Dravid gave the only uncultured shot of his innings. By then life after Tendulkar had been fairly frisky for India. Ganguly played with an

See Page 12 Col 7

Jacques Kallis
Man of the Match
India vs South Africa

Neil Johnson
Man of the Match
Zimbabwe vs Kenya

Foreign oil companies employing foreigners 'without permission'

By Sharier Khan

A growing number of foreigners are working in the energy sector in Bangladesh without work permit, sources concerned said.

Due to government's poor monitoring system, foreign oil companies working in the country are employing twelve four years now permitted under the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs). This is greatly reducing the scope of Bangladeshis to work with the foreign companies.

A high official of an oil company working for nearly four years now admitted to The Daily Star that he also does not have any work permit at present. Initially he had a work permit but when it expired he did not renew it.

"It's a thorny issue. The legal procedure itself is not very clear to foreigners like us. It requires so many documents and it is full of problems. In one word, it's like a nightmare to me. It took me about seven months to get my first work permit," said.

foreign employees undisturbed. Currently Cairn, Occidental, UMC,Okland, Shell and Unocal are working in different blocks in the country under different PSCs.

A high official of an oil company working for nearly four years now admitted to The Daily Star that he also does not have any work permit at present. Initially he had a work permit but when it expired he did not renew it.

people were working as technical and general employees of the oil companies about four years ago but the ratio is now falling rapidly, insiders said.

Foreigners, especially Indians, were largely taking over the short term technical jobs in the oil companies. Besides, non-technical jobs were also being taken over by foreigners. "In some cases, wive's of oil company executives are taking over general jobs without any work permit," said one source.

As per the PSCs, the oil companies should employ four local people against each foreign employee. In India foreign oil companies are compelled to train and employ local people

See Page 12 Col 6

A view from the Gully

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

The Lankan lions, a rare breed indeed, did not roar at Lord's on Friday. Instead they surrendered, rather meekly, to the English lions, their distant cousins till 1948, on English soil.

The World Champions appeared weary, insipid and without any appetite for a fight against their opponents in the opening match of the cricket carnival. The shape of things to come were evident from a lacklustre opening ceremony in front of a depressing crowd that swelled later as the home team slowly but surely consolidated their position. On a day that truly reflected the coy and coquettish nature of the English weather Alan Mullally more than backed up his cap-

See Page 12 Col 1