

The Daily Star

BUY NOW ... PAY LATER



Whirlpool
HOME APPLIANCES
USA
Refrigerator
Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized Distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

LEASE FINANCING
Are You Looking For Financial Assistance In

- Capital Machinery
- Heavy Construction Equipment
- Medical Equipment
- Marine Transport
- Generator & Boiler
- Vehicle like Luxury Buses, Microbuses, Trucks, Tractors
- Cargo Carriers, Pick-Up, Cars
- Lifts/Elevators
- Air Conditioning Plants

PHOENIX LEASING COMPANY LTD.
Shadhinata Bhaban (1st fl.) 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka
Phone: 9569007 (Auto Hunting) Fax: 9567787
Agrabad Branch, R.M. House, 31 Agrabad C/A, Dh. Ph: 710089, Fax: 710086

VOL. X NO. 102 REGD. NO. DA 781 • www.dailystarnews.com • DHAKA MONDAY MAY 1, 2000 • 3rd Millennium • BAISHAKH 18, 1407 BS • MUHARRAM 25, 1421 HIJRI • 16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00



Opposition opts for no hartal programme

Judges urged to discharge duty without fear or favour

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has urged judges and lawyers not to be scared by threats from anybody and to discharge their responsibilities without any fear or favour. "Today, I want to assure you that the entire nation is behind you ... Do not be scared at any threat," she said and urged judges not to do any "injustice" to anyone.

"The ruling Awami League may not have confidence in the judiciary, but the nation has full confidence in judges and the judiciary," she said addressing a mammoth public meeting

at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday. The meeting was organised by the Dhaka city unit of All Party Action Council. "Judges are not bound to abide by dictation of ministers," she said referring to a minister's recent demand for completion of trial of Bangabandhu murder case by December 30, 2000.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Golam Azam and Islamic Oikya Jote Chairman Azizul Haq also addressed the meeting. City BNP President Sadek Hossain Khoka presided.

Referring to AL's recent stick procession to press its demand for execution of the lower court's verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case, she said, "The ministers and AL leaders who led the stick procession and made offensive words against judges have to be tried under the Public Safety Act".

Condemning AL's stick processions, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said the ruling party has set up a "very bad example by issuing threats against judges and giving them dictation".

See Page 12 Col 2



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia waving at the crowd before addressing a joint rally of the four-party alliance at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday. — Star photo

May Day today

The Historic May Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world today with a renewed pledge to protect rights of the working class and increase production in mills and factories, reports UNB.

On this day in 1886, four workers were killed in police firing in Chicago of America during a movement to establish eight-hour working day and rights of the workers.

The day is public holiday. President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia gave separate messages on the occasion.

Different organisations and Labour and Employment Ministry have taken up programmes including discussions and street dramas to highlight the significance of the day.

See page 11 col 8

Air bus purchase

Khaleda embezzled Tk 140 cr in '95, says Mosharraf

Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Engineer Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia misappropriated 35 million US dollars (Tk 140 crore) in the purchase of two air buses for Biman Bangladesh Airlines in January, 1995, reports BSS.

He said in a statement it is absolutely ridiculous that Khaleda who is now on bail in

See page 11 col 3

Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today (Monday) on the occasion of May Day.

Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow (Tuesday).

Our new numbers

19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215
Phones : 8124944, 8124955 & 8124966
Fax: 8125155

Inside Today

Article
Flirting with Dangerous Illusions
Column: Perspectives
By Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz
Page 4

Business

FICCI concerned at US push to allow trade union in EPZs
Pak govt gives traders 3 months to clear smuggled goods
DSE, CSE price quotations
Pages 6, 7 & 8

Supplement

One page supplement on 'May Day' on Page 9

May	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
1		6:27 pm
2	5:23am	

Prayer Timings

May 1		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-30
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-25	6-30
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Shikdar, Faruque and Lashkar to die in Khalid murder case

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Apr 30: Ershad Ali Shikdar, 'Jamaat' Faruque and Liaquat Lashkar were sentenced to death today in the sensational Khalid Murder Case.

Accused Nasir Khan and Idris 'Jamaat' have been sentenced to transportation for life and fined Tk 50,000 each.

Accused Sentu, Yunus Sarder, Latif Sarder, Mattiar Rahman alias Mati, 'Fancy' Mona (absconding), Ashraf Ali Shikdar (absconding), Ayub Munshi (absconding) and Kujo Altaf (absconding) have been sentenced to suffer seven years' of RI each and fined Tk 5,000, in default to suffer more one year RI each.

The judgement in this murder case was delivered at 5-35 pm by Hasan Imam. Additional

District and Sessions Judge who is also in charge of the Special Court trying most of the murder cases against Ershad Shikdar and his armed cadres.

Accused Dadan Fakir, Asad, Babul, Abu Zafar Ghazi, Abdul Monnan, Jahangir, Shahabuddin Sarder, Nurul Islam (absconding), Babu (absconding), Jainal Sarder (absconding), Bimal Das (absconding), Selim Haider and Kazi Asgar Ali Tara have been acquitted as allegation against them in this murder was not proved, the judgement said.

The court also ordered to release the acquitted accused if not wanted in any other case.

This is the second judgement delivered by the judge of the

See page 11 col 7

Home Minister says Police asked to investigate case against 5 ministers

By Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday said he has ordered investigation into the allegation of terrorising people brought against five ministers including himself.

A Supreme Court lawyer, Golam Kibria, submitted an FIR to Motijheel thana on Tuesday accusing five ministers and a ruling party central leader of terrorising people by leading a stick procession against High Court judges in the city on April 18. The FIR was filed under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

"As the allegation also involved me, I felt it should be investigated ... So, I have given order to examine if there is any

See page 11 col 7

Biman to promote 68 pilots

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman Pilot Association (BAPA) and Biman management agreed on promotion of 68 pilots before expiry of a BAPA ultimatum yesterday.

According to Biman sources, the two sides however, failed to agree on the issue of hiring of expatriate pilots for the airlines.

As per a formula, 20 First Officers (FOs) of F-28 will become FOs of Airbus 310, 17 Airbus FOs will become Captains of domestic flights, 13 Captains of domestic flights will become FOs of DC-10, 12 FOs of DC-10 will become Captains of Airbus and 6 Airbus Captains will become DC-10 Captains.

A delegation of BAPA led by its President Captain Mafidul Islam held talks with Biman Managing Director Air Commodore Rafiqul Islam at Biman's headquarters from 5:30 pm to 9 pm. They agreed to hold further talks on others issues next week.

AL move to resolve intra-party feuds, reinvigorate network

By Nazmul Ashraf

The ruling Awami League is readying itself for yet another attempt to break the long-drawn stalemate in its organisational activities by solving internecine conflicts and reinvigorating the party network after several such attempts had failed earlier.

The latest AL move also aims at combating a blustering opposition campaign against the government and finding out prospective candidates for the next general elections in the areas where the party has weak base, insiders said.

For this, the party has assigned 79 of its leaders who include 41 lawmakers, 24 of them ministers, to embark on a country-wide campaign.

The assigned leaders also include the deputy speaker, two advisers of the prime minister,

mayors of Dhaka and Chittagong and four whips including the chief whip.

According to the latest plan, the AL top notches are scheduled to talk with leaders of local party units, address public rallies and evolve ways to remove intra-party feuds during a five-day visit to different areas of the country, beginning on May 3.

The team, split into 14 groups, will visit 45 districts out of the 64. Earlier, five ministers were asked to visit 19 districts where the party failed to get any seat in the 1996 general elections. However, it later won two seats in those areas in by-elections.

The AL drive comes when the BNP-led opposition alliance is on a stormy campaign denouncing the government and seeking

public support in the next general election which is still a year away unless early polls takes place.

The ruling party took a similar move in January involving more ministers, MPs and other central leaders. But most of the assigned leaders did not go by the plan.

"Dislocations in the January schedule were caused by the ministers' preoccupation with their official responsibilities. This may also repeat this time. But the ministers have been requested to consult local leaders in their assigned areas on any change in the schedule convenient to them," said AL office secretary Abdul Mannan Khan, who worked out the schedule.

Talking to The Daily Star.

See page 11 col 7

DCC felling roadside mahogany trees at Banani

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has started felling 15-year-old mahogany trees along the Kemal Ataturk Avenue at Banani in the city despite protests from residents.

The DCC says it is removing the trees "within the carriage-way to improve and widen" the

150 feet road under the World Bank aided Tk 1,100 crore Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP).

During a visit to the site yesterday, this correspondent found that about ten trees had already been felled along the northern side of the road. The

entire road from the west to the east will be stripped of the trees, the contractor's men there said. These were planted as 'avenue trees' at a substantial cost.

When contacted, S A Saleh Ahsan, Executive Officer at DCC's Gulshan-2 zonal office said widening of the road was being

done under the DUTP and the work was being monitored from the Nagar Bhavan (DCC office).

A senior engineer of DUTP said he was not aware of trees being felled along the Kemal Ataturk Avenue. He said one engineer, Salam, was in charge

See page 11 col 1



Trees being felled along the Kemal Ataturk Avenue in the city yesterday. — Star photo

CU students lay siege to VC's office: Hunger strike on

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 30: Some students of Chittagong university laid a siege to the office of the vice chancellor at 4 pm today while a syndicate meeting was going on there, campus sources said.

The meeting was called to discuss ways to break the stalemate at Chittagong university, sources added.

The activists of BCL, Chhatra Union and Chhatra Front took part in the siege programme.

They also staged demonstration in front of VC's office demanding reopening of the university.

Meanwhile, over 100 students under the banner of 'General Students Society' began fast-unto-death in front of the administrative building of Chittagong university yesterday demanding reopening of the varsity and resumption of shuttle train service.

Chittagong university remained closed for the last four months, making academic life of 14,000 students uncertain.

The stalemate began after two activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir were killed in a gunbattle with the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League on the campus on December 19 last year.

However, the Syndicate meeting continued till writing of this report at 6 pm.

The students of Chittagong

See page 11 col 7

'Hacked' ISP changes its domain address

By M Shamsur Rahman

Brac Bdmal Ltd, whose domain server was 'hacked' on Saturday, has temporarily solved the problem by changing its domain address.

The Internet Service Provider (ISP) yesterday sent mails to all its 1300 subscribers seeking apology for the inconvenience. It requested them to use the new domain address — bracbd.net — instead of earlier domain — bdmal.net.

The e-mail services of Brac Bdmal was disrupted on Saturday due to hacking. All mails directed to accounts of Brac Bdmal's subscribers Saturday returned undelivered.

When an user sent a mail to 'info@bdmal.net' account, it received a message that said "We Are sorry to inform you that BRAC BDMAL has been severely HACKED." The reply also contained the hacker's web site address, which also announced that it was hacked.

The company had initially denied any hacking in its domain server. But it regretted inconvenience to its subscribers yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star.

See page 11 col 1

Fresh drive soon to recover public land in Dhanmondi RA

By Staff Correspondent

The Public Works Department is likely to resume eviction programme to recover public land from encroachers in the Dhanmondi lake area soon, sources said.

The latest move comes after it was revealed that the recent eviction drive failed to recover all the encroached public land. The Dhanmondi Lake Development Project officials said it will not be possible to lay the walkway component of the project under the existing situation.

"Complications are arising as the residents are producing documents to prove ownership of the encroached land along the lake," said a project official.

A meeting at the LGRD Ministry on Tuesday decided that a 24-hour ultimatum will be served to the encroachers to remove all obstacles from the project area. But the notices were not served due to bureaucratic tangles.

"We are all waiting for another meeting to discuss the next course of action, and I am sure the eviction drive will have to be restarted," said a PWD official.

official, who is in charge of the eviction drive carried out by the DCC and the PWD.

He said at least seven buildings are currently posing problems for the walkway component. PWD is also looking into another 10 structures in the area which are causing obstacles to the project's work.

Meanwhile, although the construction of the two bridges at Road-32 and Road-8 was completed more than a month ago, authorities are not opening them to public. Top DCC and LGRD officials now insist that the prime minister should officially open the two bridges. But sources told The Daily Star that the Prime Minister's Office told the officials that it will be appropriate for the PM to inaugurate the entire lake project.

The Dhanmondi area is suffering severe traffic jam due to the closure of the bridges. "It does not make any sense how these officials could expect the prime minister to inaugurate two small bridges when the entire project remains unfinished," wondered a project official.

3250 more expelled on third day of HSC examinations

By Staff Correspondent

Some 3250 examinees were expelled for cheating at examination in different centres in Dhaka, Jessore, Comilla and Chittagong education boards on the third day of HSC examinations yesterday.

The examinees sat for test on Bengali 1st paper.

According to Dhaka Education Board officials, a total of 735 examinees were expelled from different centres in 14 districts.

Of them, one examinee was expelled in Dhaka city, ten were in Gazipur, nine in Munshiganj, 153 in Narsingdi, five in Manikganj, 64 in Tangail, 125 in Mymensingh, 151 in Jamalpur, 88 in Sherpur, five in Kishoreganj, 48 in Netrokona, 13 in Faridpur, 15 in Gopalganj, 19 in Rajbari 21 in Madaripur and eight in Shariatpur districts.

Jessore Education Board (JEB) officials said a total of 310 examinees were expelled from different centres in 13 districts.

Of them, 32 were expelled in Patuakhali, 25 in Pirojpur, 19 in Bhola, seven in Jhalokathi,

15 in Khulna, 23 in Bagerhat, eight in Satkhira, 76 in Kustia, five in Barguna 19 in Chuadanga, 29 in Meherpur, 15 in Jessore, 33 in Jhenaidah and four in Magura districts.

According to Comilla Education Board officials, a total of 568 candidates were expelled from seven districts under the board.

Of them, 25 were expelled in Sunamganj, 65 in Feni, 34 in Laxmipur, 33 in Brahmanbaria, 12 in Habiganj, 127 in Chandpur and 272 in Comilla.

Chittagong Education Board officials said a total of 99 examinees were expelled yesterday for cheating at the examination.

Our Correspondent from Rajshahi reports: Three teachers and some 1520 candidates were expelled yesterday from 15 districts for cheating at examination.

Of them, 98 were expelled in Rajshahi, 81 students and one teacher in Chapainawabganj, 43 in Naogaon, 48 in Joypurhat, 28 in Pabna, 136 in Rangpur, 155 candidates and two teachers

See page 11 col 1

With the assurance of Personalized Services



A Unique addition in the arena of General Insurance

Global Insurance Ltd.
Symbol of Security & Peace
Printers Building (12th floor), 5 Rajuk avenue, Dhaka-1000