



The Daily Star

TOSHIBA TV

The Latest and the best in TV technology

RANGS GROUP

VOL. X NO. 125 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 25, 2000

3rd Millennium

JAISTHA 11, 1407 BS

SAFAR 20, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: TAKA 9.00



Birth anniversary of Nazrul today

By Staff Correspondent

The 101st birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be celebrated today.

The celebration would also mark the end of a year-long birth centenary programme that began in 1999.

Poet Nazrul was born on this day in 1899 and inspired the people to fight against British rule.

His fierce writings against injustice, oppression and colonial rule gave him the identity of 'rebel poet'. Never compromising Kazi Nazrul was jailed several times for poems he composed to inspire people.

See page 11 col 7

Our new numbers

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

Catch it!



It's all there for the taking, if you don't want to spill it, anyway. The special Star Weekend Magazine of The Daily Star comes up tomorrow with interviews, players' profiles, statistics, photos and much more to give you a feel of what's on cards at the Pepsi Asia Cup.

Care to miss out — think again!

Inside Today

Article

Kashmir: How to Begin?

Column: Between the Lines
by Kuldip Nayar
Page 4

Focus

Letter from Europe

Food and flood related habits in Spain
Page 5

Business

Tax-free computer import to continue despite smuggling: Kibria

Wall Street gloom down Asian, European stocks
DSE, CSE price quotations
Pages 6, 7 & 8

May	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
25	5-12 am	6-39 pm
26		

Prayer Timings

May 25		
	Azhan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	1-00	1-30
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-38	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Tk 17500cr ADP for next fiscal

GDP growth projected at 6.5 pc

By Staff Correspondent

The National Economic Council yesterday fixed a Tk 17,500 crore Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the next fiscal year (FY2001), 13 per cent higher than that of the original ADP for this year.

The council at its meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the Planning Commission yesterday also approved a Tk 16,500 crore revised ADP for this year, which is Tk 1000 crore higher than the original outlay. This is for the second consecutive year that the revised ADP has been increased from the original one.

The GDP growth for this year has been estimated at 6.23 per cent and next year's growth has been projected at 6.5 per cent as per the new statistical series.

The ADP for next year includes Tk 9689 crore local currency, Tk 7461 crore project aid and Tk 350 crore food-assisted programme.

The government's own contribution to ADP has been set at Tk 8802 crore, which is Tk 318 crore more than that in the revised ADP for this year.

Addressing a press conference after the NEC meeting, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir said the new ADP has been prepared in line with the government's objective of poverty alleviation with Tk 6006 crore allocations for sectors related directly with this.

Social sectors will get 40.5 per cent (Tk 6509 crore) of total sectoral outlay aimed at human resource development, education

sector will get 14.3 per cent (Tk 2294 crore), health and family welfare sector 7 per cent and agriculture will get 23 per cent allocation.

Dwelling on the increased revised ADP, Alamgir said this has been made possible through successful implementation of projects.

With the increase in size, the number of projects in the revised ADP has also gone up to 1378 including 85 new projects from the original 1293.

"We hope that with the increased allocations, we will be able to further advance our progress in infrastructure, health and education sectors," said the State Minister for Planning.

Asked whether the increased

See page 11 col 6

Ministers cross swords over revised ADP

By Inam Ahmed

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria and State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir crossed swords at the National Economic Council (NEC) meeting yesterday when it was found that the revised ADP target for this fiscal year was increased by Tk 500 crore than the agreed outlay.

According to sources in the meeting, as the state minister proposed a Tk 16,500 crore revised ADP for this year, an increase by Tk 1000 crore from the original one, the finance minister vehemently protested saying that it was impossible to release a farthing more than the agreed Tk 16,000 crore.

Earlier, the revised ADP for this year and the new one for

next year became the centre of a controversy as Alamgir wanted a Tk 16,578 crore revised ADP and a Tk 20,000 new ADP for next fiscal year.

The move was viewed by many as a politically motivated one. The state minister himself felt that an inflated ADP for next year would benefit the government before the election, they noted.

However, the Finance Ministry in view of the resource constraint felt that the new ADP should be of Tk 17,500 crore while the revised one of Tk 16,000.

As both the sides stuck to their stances, the matter was later referred to Prime Minister

See page 11 col 6

Manir Uddin acting chairman of SEC

Star Report

The Finance Ministry made yesterday Manir Uddin Ahmad, member administration of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), as its acting chairman, ministry sources said.

The post of SEC chairman had fell vacant after its chairman M A Syed was appointed as chief election commissioner.

Prior to joining the SEC, Ahmad had served as Member, Finance, in Power Development Board, Chairman, Bangladesh Sugar Corporation and Chairman, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation.

Ahmad passed M. Com in 1963 from Dhaka University, LLB in 1966 and Chartered Accountancy from the Institute of Chartered Accountant of Pakistan in 1967.

Opposition stages country-wide demonstration on Saturday

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance will hold countrywide demonstration on Saturday to protest 'unilateral' appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner by the government.

As part of its programmes the BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islamic Oikya Jote, Jagpa, Democratic League, Progressive Nationalist Party and Nationalist Democratic Alliance will organise rallies and bring out processions jointly in all city, district, municipality and thana headquarters.

The alliance will organise a joint public meeting at Mukattagan at 4 pm on Saturday and bring out procession in the city. Earlier, the alliance staged demonstration in the capital

See page 11 col 1

Myanmar PM Than Shwe arrives May 29

Rohingya, boundary & trade issues to dominate official talks

By M Anwarul Haq

Bangladesh-Myanmar relations in political, diplomatic and economic spheres are expected to get a new impetus following the forthcoming visit of Myanmar Prime Minister General Than Shwe.

Issues relating to Rohingya repatriation, demarcation of maritime boundary and expansion of bilateral trade are likely to dominate official talks between Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina and her Myanmar counterpart.

The two neighbouring countries are likely to open direct road links both for increase of bilateral trade and as part of the proposed Asian Highway. Progress is also expected to be made in establishing direct coastal shipping links and in setting up a Special Economic Zone at Teknaf.

Prime Minister Than Shwe,

who is also Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of Myanmar, will arrive in Dhaka on May 29 on a three-day official visit at the invitation of Sheikh Hasina. He is likely to lead a 65-member advance team from Myanmar arrives in the city today in preparation for the visit.

The visit is being viewed as very significant for further

warming up and strengthening bilateral ties with Myanmar which, besides India, is the only other 'physical neighbour' of Bangladesh. The two countries have a common land boundary of 197 miles. The visit is also taking place against the backdrop of changed scenario in South and South East Asia, diplomatic sources pointed out.

See page 11 col 7



Police beat cricket fans at the Islampur branch of Al Baraka Bank after they scrambled for Pepsi Asia Cup tickets yesterday.

— Star photo

Cheating with fake gold biscuits!

By Staff Correspondent

Beware! An organised gang is cheating people with fake gold biscuits at bus terminals, shrines and busy shopping centres across the country.

Reports of several incidents of cheating have reached the Daily Star office. As a victim puts it: a rickshawpuller stopped his rickshaw at Dhanmondi and picked up a handkerchief from the street on Thursday. As he unwrapped the handkerchief before the victim, he sees a gold biscuit carefully wrapped in a red piece of paper along with a letter. The letter says, "Dear Bipen Babu, please make me two bangles from this biscuit for my daughter's marriage...."

By now, the victim, usually a newcomer to the city, has no doubt in his mind that it is a gold biscuit lost by a father about to wed off his daughter. The overjoyed rickshawpuller now pleads that the victim buy it from him since "he cannot sell it to a jewellery as he may be branded a thief...."

See page 11 col 6

Letter to Khaleda

Speaker urges Opposition to join JS session

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury has once again urged the opposition to return to the Jatiya Sangsad, ending their nearly year-long boycott of the parliament session.

The speaker in a letter to Leader of the Opposition in parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday requested her and other opposition lawmakers to attend the forthcoming budget session beginning on June 5.

He said any hurdles to the opposition's way back to parliament could be resolved through discussion. "I am ready to mediate any dialogue between the government and the opposition," said the speaker in his one-page letter sent in the afternoon.

However, the BNP leadership gave a cold shoulder to the speaker's invitation.

"We (still) don't find the (political) atmosphere conducive for us to return," BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP, told reporters yesterday at the Minto Road official residence of the leader of the opposition.

But BNP chief Khaleda Zia almost avoided a response. "Let's see," she told some reporters there later.

The speaker in his letter said the opposition lawmakers could make great contributions by participating in the coming budget session.

Speaker Chowdhury had written such letters to Khaleda at different times since the BNP-led opposition parties started boycotting the parliamentary proceedings in early July last year.

The BNP nevertheless kept turning down the speaker's requests every time on the ground that there was no conducive atmosphere for the opposition to return to the House.

Framing of charges in Shazneen Rape Case on May 28

By Court Correspondent

The Special Court for Women and Children Repression Prevention, Dhaka yesterday fixed May 28 for framing of charges in the Shazneen Tasnim Rahman Rape Case.

The Judge, M Shah Alam Miah, adjourned the proceedings of the case as Hasina, one of the accused in the case, was not produced in the court yesterday.

No reason was given for his absence. He has been staying at BSMU since July 11, 1999.

See page 11 col 2

Mashaldanga incident

Indian envoy summoned, handed protest note

By Staff Correspondent

The government yesterday lodged a protest against intrusion of Indians into Bangladesh territory through Mashaldanga and BSF actions in the enclave.

Deputy High Commissioner of India Pinak R Chakrabarti was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and a note of protest was handed over to him, a spokesman of the ministry said.

The protest was made over fresh abduction of Bangladesh nationals and earlier incidents of arson, abduction of Bangladeshis and looting and torture by BSF and Indian villagers in Mashaldanga in the past several days.

Meanwhile, a joint investigation by border guards of the two countries into the incidents in Mashaldanga is likely to be

gin soon. Home Secretary M M Reza told The Daily Star. He said the government was taking initiative to restore peace in the enclave with about 2000 people.

Mashaldanga has a land area of 517.38 acres and is located some 1.5 km from the mainland.

Director General of BDR Maj Gen A F Fazlur Rahman is likely to visit the spot today.

About 400 people from Mashaldanga have been given shelter at Bhurungamari thana, about 50 km off Kurigram.

People from the enclave were given shelter at a school at the thana headquarters, SP Nurul Anwar said yesterday. They were also being given relief. The complaints made by the enclave people are being investigated.

See page 11 col 4

Israeli occupation of S Lebanon ends



An elderly Palestinian woman waves the Islamic Jihad movement's flag as boys try to catch sweets thrown in the air yesterday in Gaza City to celebrate the completion of Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon overnight, ending 22 years of occupation.

— AFP photo

BEIRUT, May 24 : Israel closed one of the most bitter and bloody chapters in Middle East history today as it withdrew its last troops from Southern Lebanon, putting an end to more than two decades of occupation, reports AFP.

Leaving behind the enmity and violence that even many Israelis had come to believe could no longer go on, Israeli soldiers destroyed their remaining positions in the region in the middle of the night and fled Lebanon for good.

Israel's 22-year occupation of southern Lebanon ended at 6:42 a.m. today (9:42 BST) with the closure of military border gate number 93 after dozens of armored vehicles and hundreds of jubilant soldiers had poured back into the Jewish state.

"At the moment there is not one single soldier in Lebanon," a senior military source told AFP on condition of anonymity. "The story is over."

The last vehicle to enter Israel was a Merkava tank of the 7th Armoured Brigade which helped to stem a Syrian attempt to recapture the Golan Heights in the 1973 war.

Beforehand a bulldozer had erected a sand barrier across the road inside Lebanon and another in no-man's land between the border fences.

Thousands of Lebanese civilians rejoiced in the streets of Beirut as word reached the capital in the wee hours that the Israeli presence, which had severed the nation since 1978, was effectively over.

"The time of Arab defeats is over and the time of victories has begun," Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, head of the Hezbollah guerrillas which led the campaign to expel Israel, told a jubilant crowd in downtown Beirut.

"While for the Zionist enemy, the time of victories is over and the time of defeats has begun."

The last Israeli troops pulled out of south Lebanon under cover of darkness after a day of drama Tuesday that saw their allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) disintegrate, at lightning speed, into chaos.

SLA fighters who had helped the Israelis maintain an iron grip in their self-styled "security zone" for 22 years surrendered or rushed to border posts to seek refuge in Israel.

Their collapse precipitated the Israeli retreatment which Prime Minister Ehud Barak's had pledged would be completed by early July.

Barak had been empowered to speed up the pullout following an emergency cabinet meeting in Jerusalem overnight Monday as it became clear the SLA could not be kept together.

Hezbollah guerrillas raced to fill the vacuum throughout South Lebanon, escorting cheering civilians back to villages they had not set eyes on for years.

See page 11 col 2

Malik, Ataur may face life ban

Probe report on match-fixing

ISLAMABAD, May 24 (AFP):

A judicial commission which inquired into match fixing and bribery in Pakistani cricket has recommended a life ban and fines on several key players, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board Tauqir Zia said Wednesday.

The much-awaited report of the commission headed by Lahore High Court Judge, Malik Mohammad Qayyum, released by Zia at a news conference here, recommended a life ban on former captain Salim Malik

and former paceman Ataur Rehman.

"There have been a lot of allegations against Malik and he has been accused of bringing the team into disrepute," the report said. Qayyum has recommended a life ban against Malik, Zia said.

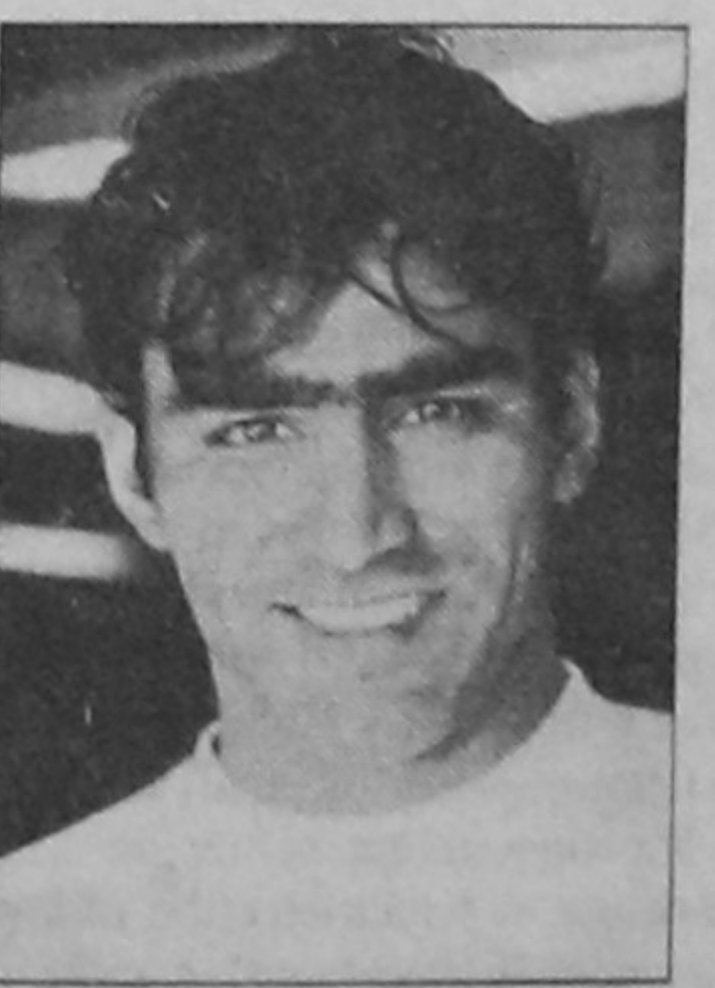
Malik has also been fined one million rupees (20,000 dollars) and cannot take part in any activity relating to cricket, the report said.

Former captain Wasim

See page 11 col 6



Selim Malik



Ataur Rehman