



Miss Universe
Denise Quinones August of Puerto Rico exults after being crowned the 50th Miss Universe at the Ruben Rodriguez Coliseum in the San Juan suburb of Bayamon yesterday.

'AL terrorists' will be jailed if alliance voted: Khaleda

UNB, Langolkot

Opposition leader Khaleda Zia has warned that the ruling party's "evil design" to return to power through terrorism and snatching ballot boxes keeping opposition activists in jail will not go unchallenged.

She made the warning at a huge public meeting at Upazila Sadar AR High School ground yesterday afternoon.

Khaleda said the government has filled prisons with opposition leaders and workers as part of a conspiracy to breach the four-party alliance.

"They even threw into jail 81-year-old leader Shaikhul Hadith Azizul Huq, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed and Fazlul Huq Aminee."

The former Prime Minister said, "Criminals and terrorists of Awami League" would be tried and thrown into jail if the alliance is voted to power.

She said the government being scared of the unity of the alliance is trying to break its unity. "If some betrayers go out from the unity, people will reject them through ballot," she said.

Presided over by Langolkot upazila BNP President Abdul Gafur Bhuiyan, the meeting was also addressed by BNP leaders Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, Col (retd) Akbar Hossain, Jahanara Begum, Mirza Abbas, Amanullah Aman, Najimuddin Alam, Joyanal Abedin Faruq, Barkatulla Bulu and Mahbubul Alam Tara.

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Govt setting up three more fertiliser factories

REAZ AHMAD

Encouraged by increase in food production, the government is setting up three more fertiliser factories in the country to maintain the growth rate in the agricultural sector.

Sources concerned said the three new factories will increase the annual fertiliser production to about three million tonnes from two million tonnes now produced in six factories under the state-run Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC). The government now imports 0.2 to 0.5 million tones of urea.

One of the factories will produce granular urea and two others will produce di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), which contains 18 percent urea and 46 percent phosphate. DAP has already proved to be very much worthy and become popular with farmers.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally inaugurated construction of the DAP-1 factory on May 1 at Rangadia, the site of the Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Limited (CUFL) and the Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Ltd (KAFCO) in Chittagong.

The Tk 393 cr factory with a capacity of over a quarter million tonnes of DAP will be completed in 30 months by the China National Complete Plant Import and Export Corporation Limited (COMPLANT). China will bear Tk.

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Technicians try to fix one of the 11 derailed carriages of Sylhet-Dhaka Parabat Express near Daulatkandi in Narsingdi late Friday night. Fortunately, the passengers escaped unhurt.

Second round of 9th NID today

UNB, Dhaka

As part of the global effort to make the world polio-free, the second round of 9th National Immunization Day (NID) will be observed today (Sunday) across the country.

More than 21 million under-five children of the country will be vaccinated and one Vitamin 'A' capsule will be given to each of them on the day.

UNICEF has requested all parents and others concerned to bring their under-five children to the nearest vaccination centre on the day to immunize them and make the day's programme a success.

The government has taken special initiatives to eradicate polio from the country through observance of National Immunization Day. The day is being observed in the

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Mizan planted 'bomb' to implicate rivals?

STAR REPORT

The 'bomb' planted under the car of DCC Commissioner of Ward-45 Habibur Rahman Mizan on May 7 was part of a well thought-out publicly stunt and also designed to implicate his rivals in the incident, police and local sources suspected.

Sources close to Mizan also alleged that the ward commissioner himself staged the drama to go ahead of others in the race to become deputy mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

They said a fierce competition is now going on among the DCC ward commissioners since the government announced to appoint a deputy mayor to each of the country's five city corporations. Mizan is currently lobbying hard to get the job. Mizan also owns quite a good number of businesses.

Mizan has had strained relations with Awami League lawmaker

Mockbul Hossain following a recent feud over control over establishing political supremacy over Mohammadpur area. He once enjoyed good relations with Mockbul, though.

Mizan's close business links with the son of DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif and his recent political activities to gain support for an Awami League ticket in the parliamentary elections have earned him enemies both in and outside the ruling party.

Immediately after the discovery of the 'bomb' on May 7, local people

and the police suspected 'foul play'. At the time, Mizan was attending his air-conditioned office, set up illegally over a stretch of roadside land on the southern side of the Residential Model School and within a stone's throw of the prime minister's official residence at Mirpur Road.

Driver of Mizan's private car Kamal was the man who first discovered the bomb underneath the car. Kamal was replacing the full-time driver Dulal on the particular day who was on leave.

Neither the police nor the army bomb squad, who 'deactivated' the suspected bomb and took it away, could confirm whether it was really a bomb till yesterday.

Police officers present at the spot during the recovery suspected it to be a powerful bomb that could be activated by remote control device, while sources in the police took it for a timing device.

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Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting increasing incidents of attack on journalists in the country.

Rail links with Ctg, Sylhet restored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several compartments of the Dhaka-bound inter-city train Parabat from Sylhet derailed near Bhoirab on Friday, disrupting rail communications between Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet until 4:30 p.m. yesterday.

Bangladesh Railway (BR) sources said eleven compartments of Parabat went off the track near Bhoirab at 8:40 p.m., but none was injured in the incident. The sources said direct rail communication resumed with Jayantika leaving Dhaka at 4:30 p.m. yesterday.

A source said that after the incident rail communication between Sylhet, Chittagong and Dhaka was maintained through Mymensingh. The BR will conduct an investigation into the incident.

Sources said that the antiquated compartments and lack of proper blast packing on the tracks might be responsible for such mishaps.

"The compartments are very old and at many places there is no proper blast on the tracks," said a BR official, explaining the possible cause of the accident.

Work order for Rupsha Bridge on May 16

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Work order on the Rupsha Bridge will be issued on May 16.

A large number of trees being felled and all houses under nine mouzas already demolished, as required for implementation of the Tk 14.29 crore Rupsha Bridge Project.

The Forest Department has estimated Tk 38.64 lakh as value for the trees, while the PWD has estimated Tk 83 lakh for the houses. Owners of the land would be paid Tk 12.48 crore as compensation, sources said.

But none will be allowed to receive the payment unless he or she produces genuine document in support of his or her claim, said ADC (LA), Khulna, who has started issuing notices to the parties to receive money in compensation.

The source also said Tk 1, 24, 5000 will be given as part of the payment well before the laying of the foundation.

According to Project Director Md. Mominul Huq, the Roads and Highway Department (RHD) has already paid Tk 5 crore to the highest authorities of the District Administration for making partial payment against the land acquisition.

But it is alleged that the landowners did not receive any payment yet despite the prime minister's strict instruction to the authorities.

A high official of the District Administration requesting anonymity said yesterday it would not be possible to pay compensation before laying of the foundation-stone for 'unavoidable reasons'.

Meanwhile, owners of the land on Friday alleged that they are being forced

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Will journalist Tipu remain disabled?



The Daily Star - প্রথম আলো

Tipu Treatment Fund

Donate generously to this Fund
Save Tipu from Disability

Send donations to: Savings Account No. 25002111
Dhaka Bank Ltd, Karwan Bazar Branch, Dhaka

Violence marks West Bengal repolling

BSS, Kolkata

Sporadic violence marked the repolling at 90 centres in West Bengal as Trinamool Congress and CPM supporters clashed in North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas.

In Bishpur area in South 24 Parganas, police fired six round of bullets, killing one unidentified person. In booth number 47 of Bishnupur east, not a single voters turned up to cast their votes protesting political violence.

Violence and arson marked polling in 15 booths in Finance Minister Ashim Dasgupta's constituency, Kharda, in South 24 Parganas. In booths like Patulia Boys School, Police Quarters, Masunda Boys School and Som Sevk Kendra, CPM activists rigged the polls and did not allow any one to cast their vote.

They have also beaten Trinamool supporters. Trinamool candidate Ranjit Mukherjee alleged that Dasgupta himself led a group of CPM cadres and did not allow any women voters to cast their votes in the Patulia Police Quarters centre.

At around 7:43 am, Trinamool Congress President Mamata Banerjee, who was camping in Khardah since last night, went to Patulia to oversee election in process but was denied entry by police.

"Even the police sided with CPM supporters," she said. "Local Police SDPO, Basab Dasgupta tried to prevent me from entering a booth where CPM was committing peaceful rigging after they kicked out Trinamool agents," she said

Shooting Club staff shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An employee of the Gulshan Shooting Club was shot during practice at the club yesterday.

The injured was identified as Swapan, 22, son of Shamsul Haq. Swapan was shot in his left hand while standing behind a tin-shed house of the club. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Liverpool's FA Cup

AFP, Cardiff

Liverpool won the FA Cup by beating Arsenal 2-1 thanks to two goals from England international Michael Owen at the Millennium Stadium here on Saturday.

Fredrik Ljungberg opened the scoring for Arsenal in the 72nd minute before Owen equalised in the 83rd minute and scored the winner five minutes later with an angled shot past Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman.