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Anniversary of Zia's death today

BSS, Dhaka

The 21st death anniversary of President Ziaur Rahman will be observed today across the country. On this day in 1981, President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated at Chittagong Circuit House by a group of disgruntled army personnel.

President Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, in a message on the occasion, paid tributes to the valiant freedom fighter and former President.

"The contribution of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in the liberation war and his role in establishing multiparty democracy in the country have finally determined the

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President urged to confirm appointment of 3 judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A committee of senior lawyers of the Supreme Court met President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday and requested him to confirm appointment of three judges of the High Court.

The three judges were recently refused confirmation of appointment although the chief justice recommended it.

The president told the committee comprising 13 senior lawyers that he would act according to the constitutional provisions.

Headed by President of the Supreme Court Bar Association M Ozaer Faruque, the committee noted that if the head of the state's liking for a person determined who

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2 Bangladeshis shot dead by BSF in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshi nationals were shot dead by BSF personnel near Loharmohal border under Jakiganj upazila on Tuesday night.

Sources said, Kamaluddin, 30, son of Awlad Hossain and Atai, 24, son of Kudrat Ali of village Pashchim, Loharmohal, were fishing in the river Kushiyaar at about 12.30 am.

Locals said BSF men fired shots targeting the two. They died on the spot.

The Indian Border Security Forces, however, took the bodies inside their territory.

BDR has asked BSF for return of the bodies.

INSIDE TODAY

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The evil they are
MB Naqvi
Writes from Karachi

Focus 5

Nurturing quality teaching in higher education

Supplement 17-20

A 4-page supplement on 'the 21st death anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman'

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
May 30		6-41pm
May 31	5-11 am	

Prayer Timings		
May 30		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-42	6-47
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Ctg port sent to standstill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Some 30,000 dockers enforced an indefinite strike since 7.30am yesterday at the Chittagong Port, leading to total suspension of all sorts of activities there.

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) held separate and joint meetings with the agitating workers and employees of the Stevedoring Staff Union, and the Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association (BMSA) several times in the afternoon to end the deadlock.

But the standoff remained unresolved till filing of this report at 9:00 last night.

The Chittagong Dock Bandar Sramik Karmachari Parishad -- an alliance of workers and employees working at Chittagong port -- called for the work abstention demanding withdrawal of a revised circular

issued by the CPA on Monday.

On the other hand, the Port Users Forum -- a platform of five port users organisations including BMSA said the revision of section 22 (B) of Shore-handling Agreement in the circular restored the owners' and employers' International Labour Organisation Convention-recognised right to 'hire and fire' to some extent and demanded its retention.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) asked for immediate intervention into the matter by the prime minister. A letter to this end was faxed to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in New York yesterday afternoon.

Besides, the CCCI also termed the 'wildcat' work abstention without prior notice illegal and urged the

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Gunmen make death doubly sure

Sleeping Jubo Dal activist shot, then sprayed with bullets on way to hospital in city



Mizanur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gunmen sprayed bullets on a ruling BNP-backed Jubo Dal activist twice in a space of half an hour to make sure that he is dead at Rampura in the city yesterday morning.

Also injured were two others in the second attack. Mizanur Rahman, 29, first came under attacks while he was sleeping on the ground floor of his rented house at east Rampura at about 5:45am. The same gang launched another attack on him within half an hour on the way to hospital.

Eyewitnesses said an armed gang of about 15 led by Kala Palash, an alleged criminal, fired at will at the house breaking its windowpanes.

The gang based in Ulan Rampura and west Rampura went to the house, posing as early risers, toothbrushes and gamcha (towel) in their hands.

Kala Palash, a rival of Mizan, hid himself in a toilet after the first round of firing. Soon afterwards, Mizan opened the door of his living room thinking that the firing had been over. Unfortunately, he found himself shot in the chest by Palash.

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Stringent fitness test for launches

Shipping minister promises at The Daily Star roundtable on passenger safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the passenger vessels now in operation will undergo thorough inspection of design and structure to ensure safety on board.

Three special teams would be formed -- each comprising a magistrate, a marine engineer, a naval architect and other specialists -- for conducting vigorous inspection of those.

The vessels which fail the tests will face suspension and the owners will be asked to rectify the faults and get the fitness certificates renewed.

This was disclosed by Shipping Minister Col (ret'd) Akbar Hossain yesterday while speaking as chief guest at The Daily Star roundtable on "How to ensure safety of launch passengers," held at its office.

Launch owners, government officials, naval architects, marine

engineers and BUET teachers participated in the lively discussion at the roundtable which lasted around four hours.

Disclosing a series of steps the government would take to discipline the water transport sector, Akbar Hossain said he had already talked with BUET experts. Senior students of BUET's Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering (NAME) department would help the inspection teams. Some private firms, which have adequate expertise, would be appointed for inspection of passenger vessels.

Chairman of Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carriers) Association Alhaj Mohammad Kalimullah suggested that every big passenger vessel should engage two persons on board full time to cut

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Settling for an inflated ADP

ECNEC approves Tk 19,200 cr next ADP

SHAHRIAR KARIM

Despite resource constraints the government has settled for the largest ever annual development programme (ADP) for the next fiscal with a Tk 19,200 crore outlay. This represents a 20 per cent growth over this fiscal's revised ADP.

Earlier, citing resource scarcity the government slashed the revised ADP for this fiscal to Tk 16,000 crore from the original Tk 19,000 crore. The four-party coalition government also criticised the immediate past Awami League government for framing an 'ambitious ADP'.

An extended meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) yesterday discussed the draft ADP for the next fiscal. National Economic Council (NEC) headed by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will finally approve it on June 4.

With Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair, all the cabinet members attended the meeting at the NEC auditorium at the Planning

Commission in the city.

"We have framed the ADP in relation to our ability to mobilise internal resources. Next fiscal, I will bring down the budget deficit to four per cent of GDP," Saifur told newsmen after the meeting.

About 55 per cent or Tk 10,620 crore of the ADP will be financed from local resources. And around 39 per cent or Tk 7,540 crore will come from project aid. In the revised ADP for this fiscal, the local resource component was around 49 per cent.

This clearly indicates that the finance minister will have to arrange more funds from internal sources to contain the budget deficit within the envisaged four per cent.

To achieve the goal, the finance minister has to achieve a robust growth in revenue earning by widening the tax base and streamlining the administration.

But Saifur also admitted that resource mobilisation is always a difficult task. "Since we will depend mostly on domestic resources, we have to mobilise more internal resources."

Otherwise, it would ultimately lead to either increased borrowing from the banking sector or mopping up of public savings through high interest bearing instruments.

Although the government criticised the immediate past Awami League government for taking up many political and low-priority projects in the ADP, the next year's ADP is not fully out of malaise.

New projects like Ziaur Rahman Memorial Complex at Kalurghat and Chittagong Zia Krira Complex at Chokoria at Cox's Bazar are only a few of them. The new projects also include setting up of a computer institute in Feni, the home constituency of the prime minister. Also a stadium complex in home district of late president Ziaur Rahman in Bogra has been included in the new ADP.

The transport projects got the highest allocation in the next ADP accounting for around 18 per cent of the outlay.

Death chill stalks DCC ward commissioners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The killings of two new ward commissioners have sent jitters among other ward commissioners of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

The ward commissioners especially those at loggerheads with their rivals or defeated candidates for the just-concluded DCC polls are all too worried about their safety, said sources. Some commissioners have sought police protection and urged their party high-ups to ensure their security.

Saidur Rahman Newton of ward No. 8 and Binoy Krishna Sarkar Bina of ward No. 72 were gunned down at Dhanmondi and Shankhari Bazar in the city respectively in only 11 days. Both were from the ruling BNP.

The sources said the commissioners have confined themselves to their residences since the killing of Bina. The killing of Newton on May 10 initiated the pattern of fear and

the killing of Bina on May 22 accentuated it.

Many new ward commissioners told The Daily Star that the incidents have landed them in an "uneasy" situation. "I leave my residence, worried about my security and always try to finish my work in daytime," said a ward commissioner on condition of anonymity.

"I have stopped going out of my residence as my opponent in the DCC polls is a drug-peddler and may take revenge on me anytime," said another commissioner.

Intelligence sources said that more ward commissioners were targeted because of their newfound power after the DCC election. The election has created rivalry between new ward commissioners and their local BNP leaders, the sources added.

Contacted, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner (DMP) Abdul

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'Resist rising crime, save democracy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President of Gano Forum Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged the people to initiate a social and political movement to check rising incidents of crime to save democracy.

He asked them to stand up to arrest the fast deteriorating law and order, curb repression on women and children, killing, extortion and increasing intolerance in the political parties.

He was speaking at a public meeting organised by Gano Forum at the Paltan Maidan yesterday.

Both the government and opposition in the parliament have failed to serve the people, since they are unaware of the greater interest of the nation, he observed.

Even the child in its father's lap is unsafe since people have no secu-

city of life under the present government, he added.

Leaders from different political parties also spoke in the meeting. They criticised the government for its failure to keep the law and order under control. They expressed their concern over the attacks on the minority by the ruling BNP and Jamat-e-Islami-backed political activists.

The leaders alleged that government is misusing the law-enforcement agencies to harass their political opponents rather than control crime.

Following the meeting a declaration was adopted, which was read out by

Joint Secretary of the

Mafizul Islam.

The declaration urged the people

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PHOTO: AFP

GOLDEN BOOT BOUND? Italian ace marksman Christian Vieri does a sprint during the team's training session at the Sendai Stadium in South Korea yesterday. He is tipped to bag the highest number of goals in the finals.

Viva Vieri

INTERNET, Milan

With several days before the World Cup 2002 kick off, Inter FC manager Hector Cuper commented on the Italian national team and the participation of his side's players in the forthcoming major football event on Inter official web site.

In fact, thirteen Inter players will participate in the World Cup, making the nerazzurri the most represented club side. The Italian side manager did not try to conceal his satisfaction: "It's the merit of a good championship contested by the team. I would like it to be everybody's World Cup."

When asked to share his opinion on the surprise player and revelation team of this World Cup, Cuper named Ronaldinho Gaucho and Turkey, tipping Vieri to become top scorer at the World Cup. The former Valencia coach believes that a World Cup final between Italy and Brazil would be a great final.

The Inter coach also commented on his side's transfer policy and Moratti's statement that the left side was to be rebuilt: "We all know it, it's a place where we must reinforce the squad more urgently than in other parts. I don't know if Coco will arrive, but he is however in a list of interesting players for that role. If Inter redeem Corradi it means that he is a player that can have the same function as Vieri."

When asked which player he would like to work again with Kily Gonzalez or Vicente and for what different reasons, the manager stated: "I could like it

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KICK OFF

TK 50

The Daily Star

2002 WORLD CUP SPECIAL

AND GRAB ONE YOURSELF

Copies of The Daily Star World Cup 2002 Supplement are in the stalls already! Its 56 pages are full of all-colour World Cup spices, prospects of all 32 participating teams, special

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