



Students of the BUET march towards the Prime Minister's Office to submit a memorandum to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday, demanding punishment to the persons responsible for the killing of Sabequn Nahar Sony, a BUET student.

BJP wants Abdul Kalam as next president

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India's ruling BJP-led alliance has named leading scientist A P J Abdul Kalam, the father of the country's missile programme, as the candidate for the post of Indian President. Kalam, the 72-year-old space scientist from the southern state of Tamil Nadu, emerged as "dark horse" choice of the alliance after its constituents were divided on the candidature of earlier front-runners Krishan Kant, at present the vice president, and P C Alexander, a former close aide of Indira Gandhi. The name of Kalam was announced by alliance convener and Defence Minister George Fernandes late Monday night after a meeting of the coordination committee of the ruling combine. The choice of Kalam by BJP-led alliance for the highest post took by surprise the opposition led by

India recalls warships from near Pakistan

AP, New Delhi

Indian warships started moving away from waters near Pakistan in the northern Arabian Sea yesterday, the navy said, as the government took another step to reduce the threat of war between the nuclear-armed nations. Shelling and small-arms fire killed at least seven people overnight along the disputed Kashmir frontier, however, ahead of a visit by U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld aimed at defusing tensions between India and Pakistan. The announcement about Indian warships recalled occurred a day after the New Delhi government announced it would allow Pakistani aircraft to fly over India after a six-month ban. "Ships of the Western Fleet, which were patrolling different areas of the north Arabian Sea, have been recalled to their base as per the government decision," Navy Cmdr. Rahul Gupta told The Associated Press. The ships were expected back in Bombay within two days. Gupta did not say how many ships were moving, but dozens of ships are included in the Western Fleet. The fleet includes India's only aircraft carrier, several subma-

rines, missile destroyers and multipurpose frigates. An additional five ships that had been moved from the eastern side of the subcontinent also were withdrawn from waters near Pakistan, but will remain on the west coast for now, Gupta said. Though the South Asian rivals have been stepping back from their war footing, a million soldiers still line their frontier and both countries acknowledge the threat of war remains. "We are looking for genuine steps from the Indian side, not peripheral and cosmetic steps," said Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf during a visit yesterday to the United Arab Emirates. "The genuine step, as I have laid down, is the initiation of a dialogue on the Kashmir dispute, and all other issues." India's government has refused to enter such a dialogue until it is satisfied that Pakistan-based militants are no longer crossing the frontier to commit acts of terror in India. When asked at a news conference in Abu Dhabi if Pakistan would reciprocate India's overtures, Musharraf said his country had already "done far more of its share of easing the tension."

BDR raids Dhaka College hostels, 3 held, arms recovered

UNB, Dhaka

BDR personnel raided Dhaka College hostels on Monday night and recovered a German-made revolver, sharp weapons and a motorbike. The BDR drive began at 3 am and continued till 7 am. At one stage police joined the operation. During the drive they arrested three criminals, Mohammad Ali Sabuj, Mahmud Hasan Anu and Zakir Hossain, police and BDR sources said. The paramilitary force also recovered a cheque for Tk 13.56 lakh issued against one person named 'Shimul' and some receipts of toll collection from tempos at the tempo stand in front of the college. The recovered receipts show that an amount of Tk 86,000 was collected as toll from tempos running on New Market-Farmgate route from the stand.

AL removes seven central leaders from party posts

50 others suspended, 305 warned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League has decided to remove seven central leaders and 14 others at various levels from their party posts and suspend another 50 for various periods for their controversial role during the last general election. The party also issued warning notices to another 305 leaders and workers for such role. The AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) meeting

yesterday with party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair took the decisions after reviewing reports of a probe committee formed immediately after the election. The committee had accused 540 party men for breaking party discipline but the CWC relieved 144 of them of the charges after review. The actions came eight months after the general election and six months ahead of the party's biennial central council. The meeting also fixed

December 22 and 23 this year for the party's biennial council. The seven central leaders who will be removed from party posts are: Joint Secretary Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Science and Technology Secretary Moniem Sarker, Assistant Office Secretary Siddiqui Rouf Khan, Assistant Publication Secretary Nurul Fazal Bulbul, and Executive Committee members Prof Fazlul Haq, Fulu Sarker and Nurul Majid Humayun,

Pangaon container terminal: Tender to be floated within 2 months

UNB, Dhaka

Construction work on a proposed internal container terminal on the bank of the river Buriganga at Pangaon of Keraniganj will begin soon. Tender will be floated within next two months and the work will be completed by two to three years, Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain said yesterday (Tuesday) while visiting the site of the terminal. The container terminal will be built at an estimated cost of Tk 356 cr. The minister said 88.48 acres of land have already been acquired for the purpose.

Gazipur BIT closed for 3 weeks

UNB, Gazipur

The authorities have closed Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) here for three weeks. The decision was taken yesterday as the campus situation turned volatile following continued student demonstrations. A section of students put the administrative building under lock and key and hurled bricksbats at the teachers' residences. The students have been demonstrating since Saturday on their demand for announcing nine final-year students of the Mechanical Department, who failed to pass their exams, as successful. The nine students were shown unsuccessful in results published on Saturday.

Improve law & order, donors reiterate

STAR REPORT

The donors yesterday expressed concern over the law and order in the country and urged the government to take steps to improve the situation. They also said whatever measures the government takes for development would not produce desired results if good governance is not ensured, according to sources. The local consultative group (LCG), a platform of the donors, had a two and half-hour meeting with Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman on issues including governance and the proposed budget, held at the NEC conference

room in the city. Talking to newsmen later, the finance minister however said law and order did not come up for discussion. When asked, Country Director of World Bank Frederick T Temple said, "There was some discussion on law and order." But he did give details. The donors also urged the government to set up independent institutions and separate the judiciary from the executive without any delay for a positive impact on governance. They also reminded the government that they want action from it on its declared agenda and want to see some result, sources

Damage suit filed against FEER

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A damage suit of Tk 12,000 crore against the Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER) was filed with the Fifth Joint District Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday. Publisher of the Hong Kong based weekly Philip Pivjane, chief editor Masek Vitequeteser, senior writer Bertin Linter and its Bangladesh Correspondent Syed Kamaluddin have been made respondent in the case. The suit was filed by Amin Ali Howlader of Arambagh, Motijheel,

Multi-metering angers phone subscribers

STAR REPORT

Telephone subscribers of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) are frustrated and surprised at its decision to introduce multi-metering system for local calls of digital telephones. As per the system to be effective from July 1, subscribers will have to pay Tk 1.50 for every five minutes in peak hours from 8 am to 8 pm. During off-peak hours, the same charge will be for every eight minutes. They now pay Tk 1.70 per call and there is no time limit for a call. "This is a mischievous decision, which will ultimately overburden subscribers," said Raju Biswas, a subscriber at Mohammadpur in the city. He said the BTTB is "going backward". Many countries in the developed world have waived charges on local calls as it involves huge costs for infrastructure building and manpower, he said. "It is an anti-people decision," another subscriber said. BTTB's service is not up to the mark and many of its subscribers suffer even for months for this, he alleged. Another subscriber said BTTB is run with tax payers' money and so it should be a service-oriented organisation, not a profit-making one. BTTB earned a surplus revenue of over Tk 8.7 crore in fiscal 2000-01. Its total revenue earning was about Tk 17.6 crore against an expenditure of about Tk 3.9 crore during the period. Internet users connected with Internet service providers (ISPs) through telephone will be exempted from the multi-metering system. BTTB has requested all ISPs to submit their access telephone numbers

CU JCD factions clash at Sholoshahar rly station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Tension again gripped the Chittagong University (CU) campus as rival factions of the ruling BNP backed student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) clashed at Sholoshahar Railway Station yesterday morning. M R Chowdhury Milton, a leader of JCD university unit, and another activist, Kamrul, were injured in the clash. Milton was later admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). JCD leaders belonging to Milton group in a statement claimed that one of their leaders, Shuvra, has been missing following the incident. Protesting this, they will bring out a procession and hold a protest rally on the campus, lay a siege to the Proctor's Office and submit a memo

Freed from the clutches of traffickers



Happy home... Nur Mohammad and Nur Islam after 15 months in a shelter home in India reunite with their parents at the BNWLA office in the city yesterday.

NAIMUL HAQ
After fifteen months in a shelter home in India, two children got reunited with their parents in the city yesterday. A touching scene was witnessed at the office of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) as Nur Mohammed, 7, and Nur Islam, 6, jumped into the arms of their parents. The happy reunion took place at the office of the BNWLA which arranged return of the two brothers to their family. However, the story does not end here. Their 10-year-old sister Rubiya Khatun is still in a shelter home in Kolkata and the family is eagerly awaiting her return.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
June 12		6-47 pm
June 13	5-10 am	

Prayer Timings		
June 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-51	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

