



TO  
People's Right to Know

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XII No. 128

DHAKA TUESDAY JULY 9, 2002

JAISTHA 16, 1409 BS

RABIUL AWAL 16, 1423 HJRI

20 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: TK 10.00

www.dailystarnews.com

## Army promotion Talent and patriotism should be criteria : PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said her government was committed to doing everything possible for the Bangladesh Army to attain the highest military standards, as they are the sentinels of national sovereignty.

"We will utilise our available resources to build the army as a competent force fit for the 21st century," said the prime minister, also in charge of the Defense Ministry, in her introductory statement at the Bangladesh Army Selection Board meeting 2002 in the Army Headquarters.

The board, which comprises all serving lieutenants and major generals of the army, provides promotion to senior officers to vacant posts.

In her guideline, the prime minister asked the authorities concerned to rise above all interests and make their judgment considering talent and competence in providing the promotions.

Stressing the need for professional standards...

# High hopes hail Thai PM

Khaleda, Shinawatra talk trade, aviation, road link today



PHOTO: STAR

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra (L) and his Bangladeshi counterpart Khaleda Zia wave at the crowds at the Zia International Airport yesterday.

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her Thai counterpart Thaksin Shinawatra will hold official talks this morning.

The setting-up of a road network, increased private sector investment and joint business cooperation are expected to figure prominently in the talks.

Also will be discussed the prospects of developing the Chittagong's Shah Amanat Airport and the Chiang Mai airport as new regional aviation hubs.

Bangladesh will seek duty-free access of its exportables to Thailand in the talks with Shinawatra, reports BSS.

The Thai prime minister was accorded a red carpet reception on arrival here yesterday on a three-day official visit at the invitation of Khaleda.

She received Shinawatra as he alighted from a special aircraft of the Royal Thai Air Force at the VVIP Lounge at the Zia International Airport.

The aircraft carrying the Thai prime minister and his entourage landed at the airport at 4:10pm amid a 19-gun salute.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## 3 shot at Jamuna Group's land filling site

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two workers and a student sustained bullet injuries at a land filling project of the Jamuna Group at Baruya in the city's Badda area when they were attacked by an unidentified gang yesterday noon.

A bullet pierced Abdul Mannan, 45, a dredger operator of Robbin Dredging, through his torso while Noor Ali, 35, another worker, was shot in both legs. The student, Mohammad Almas, 19, a HSC examinee from Demra College, suffered bullet injury in his left leg and was also stabbed in hand.

The armed gang numbering about 30 went to the project site by a trawler and carried out the attack. They also damaged several dredgers used for land filling.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

# AIDS antidote by 2005

US company claims at UNAIDS meet in Barcelona

BBC, Barcelona

A US biotechnology company yesterday gave details of a vaccine against AIDS, which it hoped could be available by 2005, to delegates attending the International Aids Conference in Barcelona.

The head of VaxGen, Donald Francis, told the meeting the vaccine worked on chimpanzees and said he was optimistic it would also work on humans.

Francis said the results of trials on humans would be available next year.

Scientists at the conference also unveiled a drug which could help people suffering from the disease and

who are resistant to the therapies currently in use.

The six-day conference organised by the United Nations agency UNAIDS, and attended by 15,000 delegates, will hear calls for the richer countries to do more to help the developing world to tackle the disease.

"I think we will get protection (from the virus), but I don't know what level we'll get," Francis said. "If all goes well, (the vaccine) could be available by the end of 2004 or early 2005."

Campaigners have given a cautious welcome to VaxGen's announcement, but say it is necessary to wait for the analysis of clinical trials.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Not out of love, but only to get money back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is not unusual for junior government officials to visit their superior on the last day of his office. But what happened at the head office of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) yesterday came as a surprise.

As many as 40 officials of the BAC's different sections yesterday gathered at its head office on the last day of a high official who has been transferred to another government body.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## Not enough gas to export

SHARIER KHAN

The National Committee on Utilisation of Gas sees little gas for export and believes that huge investment would be required to explore, develop and increase its gas reserve for its own consumption.

At the same time, the committee feels that cross-border energy trade is crucial in the context of the country's long-term energy security.

These are some of the important issues being pointed out in the committee's final report on gas utilisation.

The committee headed by former secretary Azimuddin Ahmed has started writing the conclusion of the report yesterday.

"No matter what decision is taken on the export of gas, Bangladesh may face moderate to severe energy shortage in another 25-30 years," said the draft report.

It suggests putting in place a regional gas pipeline and power network for future benefits and added that "to be part of an energy trading network may not look that attractive today, (but) it may pay rich

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Khulna newsman feared murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A journalist of a local newspaper was shot and presumably killed by armed cadres of the Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) who abducted him Friday night.

Shukur Hossain, crime reporter of Dainik Anirban, is presumed dead after his abductors shot him in the head as he tried to flee from them.

Police have so far failed to find the whereabouts of the abducted journalist who, eyewitnesses said, was fatally injured.

According to eyewitnesses of the incident, Shukur Hossain was abducted by the BCP men Friday

midnight from his village home at Sardarpara under Dumuria upazila and taken to a trawler anchored at the bank of Ghangrair River.

Just as he was being forced into the trawler, Shukur tried to escape by jumping off the vessel, but the BCP outlaws shot him twice in the head and brought him back into the trawler and sped away. Pointing at the bloodstained soil where Shukur was gunned down, two boatmen who witnessed the incident said the victim could not have survived the shots.

Son of Afazuddin Sardar of Ula village under Dumuria upazila, was shot and killed.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



PHOTO: AFP

A girl rows away from her marooned house in a low-lying area of the capital to collect drinking water yesterday. Incessant downpour over the last five days has deteriorated the flood situation.

# No respite from rising rivers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The flood situation in the country might worsen further in the next few days as the major rivers -- the Meghna, the Padma and the Jamuna -- would continue to swell, overflowing their banks and submerging vast areas in northern and central regions, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said yesterday.

In its latest report, the centre said the three major rivers recorded rise at different points yesterday. The

rivers in the north-east region -- the Surma, the Manu, the Khowai and the Gumti -- also rose further.

A senior official of the centre said because of the floods in Assam and Bihar states in the upstream in India, the Jamuna and the Padma would be in further spate, flooding the areas along their banks.

In a couple of days, the Padma still flowing below its danger level may further rise at Bhagyakul in Munshiganj, Goalundo in Rajbar, Shariatpur, Manikganj and Fardipur.

Although it was earlier forecast

that seasonal flood would affect the country from the middle of this month, it is taking place 'a bit early because of heavy monsoon showers both in Bangladesh and in Assam and Bihar in the upstream,' the official mentioned.

Heavy rains in the past few days also led to water logging in vast areas in south-east region of the country with the Meghna carrying the joint flows of the swelling Padma and the Jamuna into the Bay of Bengal.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## INSIDE TODAY

- Article** 4  
A limousine parked at the graveyard Column: Straight from the heart Afsan Chowdhury
- Focus** 5  
Sony's killing further exposes the dark side of student politics
- Culture** 16  
Pictorial focus on baroque architecture

# Opposition Day dream of AL to cut JS chaos

REAZ AHMAD and NAZRUL ISLAM

The main opposition Awami League (AL) is going to propose introduction of a Westminster-style weekly 'Opposition Day' in the parliament through amending the rules of procedure.

Considering the less opportunities it gets on the parliament floor, the AL wants to give the idea a chance to make the country's 11-year-old parliamentary practice since 1990 more functional.

The proposed provision of having a designated weekday exclusively for the opposition lawmakers would help avert the unnecessary chaos in the House over allocation of time for the MPs on the floor, parliament experts say.

According to the party insiders, the AL conceived the idea of a weekly 'Opposition Day' in the Jatiya Sangsad in the light of a project styled 'Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy', undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

At the fag end of the seventh Jatiya Sangsad, the UNDP placed a set of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7