

The Daily Star

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PRE-BDF MEET WITH DONORS

'Economic success suffers from bad politics, crime'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh misses out on capitalising its recent economic successes for deteriorating law and order, and confrontational politics, donors observed at lead-up talks to the Bangladesh Development Forum (meet) meeting yesterday.

"Law and order is essential for the development of any country, not just Bangladesh. And confrontational politics is not good for any country," World Bank Country Director Christine I Wallich told the press, emerging out of the meeting. "Obviously, we want less confrontational politics and more

development," said Wallich, spokesperson of the WB-led donors that include the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union, Japan, USA and others.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman told the donors of a number of

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Shubha Nababarsha

Two shop-owners check out New Year's greetings in framed posters put up for sale at Dhaka's Shakhari Pally yesterday. Shopkeepers will open fresh accounts on the first day of Bangla New Year today.

PHOTO: STAR

20 killed as buses collide in Tangail

UNB, Tangail

Twenty people, including four women and a child, were killed and 34 injured as two buses collided head on the Dhaka-Tangail Highway in Mirzapur upazilayesterday afternoon.

One of the dead was identified as Motaleb Bepari, 40, of Munshiganj district. Identity of the rest could not be known till 7:00pm yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place at Deobata when a Dhaka bound bus from Rajshahi collided with a Tangail bound bus from Gazipur at about 4:30pm, killing 13 passengers of both the vehicles on the spot and injuring 41 others.

The injured passengers were

rushed to Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital where seven of them succumbed to their injuries soon after admission.

Both the buses were badly damaged in the collision. Police Superintendent Abdur Rahman Khan visited the spot.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has expressed deep shock at the deaths of 20 people in Tangail road accident. In a condolence message yesterday, she conveyed her sympathy to the bereaved families and prayed for eternal peace of the departed souls.

State Minister for Jute Lutfar Rahman Azad also expressed deep shock at deaths of 20 people in the accident.

Balaji rattles Pakistan

REUTERS, Rawalpindi

Indian seamer Lakshmi Prasad Balaji took a career-best four wickets on Tuesday as Pakistan were dismissed for 224 on a seaming pitch on the first day of the deciding third Test.

The 22-year-old was rewarded for his accurate line and length,

dismissing opener Taufeeq Umar (nine), Asim Kamal (21), Kamran Akmal (17) and Shoab Akhtar (0) after Indian captain Saurav Ganguly elected to bowl on a green pitch.

But Mohammad Sami responded with a fighting 49 to give Pakistan some respectability after they were

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JUDICIARY SEPARATION SC irked as govt seeks 18th time extension

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday expressed annoyance for delaying the implementation of its directives towards separation of the judiciary when the attorney general sought a further extension of four months.

This was the 18th extension sought by the attorney general since the court issued its 12-point directives in December 1999.

"What has your client (government) done during the four months time taken earlier... Who are the people creating obstacles to complying with the directives?... Media is blaming us for allowing repeated extensions," the court told the chief law officer of the republic,

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CHITTAGONG ARMS HAUL

Probe finds no political link

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Probe into the April 2 weapons haul from Chittagong has so far revealed no political link with the biggest-ever arms trafficking incident, head of the five-member official inquiry committee Home Secretary Omar Farooq said at a press briefing yesterday.

The revelation came in sharp contrast with the political rhetoric from both government and opposition quarters that blamed each other for involvement in the incident.

While State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar hinted the arms

shipment might be connected to Awami League (AL)'s April 30 deadline for the government's fall, AL leaders on the other hand blamed quarters within the government for involvement in the matter.

Farooq claimed he and his team are investigating the case without being biased. "We talked to the available sources and got the names of a few people who were on the spot. The next course of action would be easier once they are arrested," he said while talking to the press at the home ministry yesterday.

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Another Bangla year comes with gaiety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pahela Boishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year 1411, is being celebrated today by tens of millions of Bangladeshes at home and across the globe amid fanfare and gaiety.

Extraordinary security has been put in place much ahead of the New Year's celebrations to avert any incidents similar to the bomb

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Notice

In accordance with the decision of NOAB (Newspapers Owners Association of Bangladesh), The Daily Star offices will remain closed today because of Pahela Boishakh, Bengali New Year, holiday. There will, therefore, be no newspaper tomorrow.

Unbelievable, bizarre

3-yr-old child accused of attempted murder surrenders to court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Believe it or not! A 3-year-old child, accused in an attempted murder case, surrendered before court in his father's lap

yesterday and prayed for bail.


Baby boy Iman Ali looked horrified at the court environment with lots of policemen, lawyers, journalists and


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PHOTO: STAR

Three-year-old Iman Ali cries in his father's lap as the child, accused in a murder case, is brought to the court yesterday. Iman was granted bail.


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