

Non-arrest of Bangla Bhai shows PM's failure: Hasina
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Leader and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has no control over the administration and her government became non-existent when her reported order to arrest Bangla Bhai was not carried out. Referring newspaper reports, Hasina said, "When prime minister ordered to arrest Bangla Bhai, one of her ministers dared to say that Bangla Bhai has given birth to a silent revolution for maintaining law and order. Where is the government then?" Addressing a delegation of Bangladesh Shikhhak-Karmachari SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Caribbean floods kill 270

REUTERS, AFP, Santo Domingo
At least 270 people have been killed in floods in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, many of them swept away when rain-swollen rivers burst their banks, authorities in the neighboring Caribbean countries said yesterday. About 110 bodies had been recovered from the Jimani area of western Dominican Republic, near the border with Haiti, and some 200 people were believed to be missing, officials there said. In Haiti, up to 100 people were killed in the town of Fond Verettes and the surrounding countryside, and 40 more died in the southeast region of the country in the floods of the past two days, sources close to Haiti's Civil Protection Office said. Twenty others died near the Haitian-Dominican border in the south of the country, said a spokesman for a local humanitarian organization. The island of Hispaniola, which the two countries share, has been lashed with torrential rains in recent days. "The Solie river, whose source is in Haiti, overflowed," Dominican National Emergency Commission commissioner Radhames Lora Salcedo said. "The river wiped out the town

between 1:00 and 3:00 in the morning." Salcedo said the death toll was preliminary. In the capital, one person drowned and another was electrocuted, as the rains toppled electrical lines, cutting power to large parts of the population. A Haitian man drowned in Duarte province of the Dominican Republic, 135km northwest of the capital, the commission said. Two people were reported missing. In Haiti, 100 people were killed in Fonds Verette, northeast of Port-au-Prince, a parish priest told Radio SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



The British High Commission in Dhaka yesterday resumes receiving visa applications for the first time after Friday's bomb attack on the UK envoy in Sylhet.

India to review river link plan

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
Newly appointed Indian Water Resources Minister Priyaranjan Dasmunshi on Monday hinted the Congress-led government would give a fresh hard look at the controversial river inter-linking project. Talking to media soon after taking office, Dasmunshi said he would examine the task force report placed before water resources ministry during the previous BJP-led government. The new government will also review the feasibility of the proposed river interconnection project and cost involved in it, he added. As per the previous government's plan, the project, estimated at a whopping cost of \$100 billion, will be implemented in a decade. Dasmunshi will study two action SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



Policemen yesterday retrieve the TV carton containing the beheaded body of a currency trader from a dustbin behind Avishar Cinema Hall in Hatkhola.

Trader hacked to death, 'killer' lynched in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Assailants hacked to death a currency trader in the early hours of yesterday in Demra and a mob lynched one of the alleged killers in Sutrapur 12 hours after the murder. And a former leader of ruling BNP's student front was shot dead in a separate incident in the city the same day. Sutrapur police retrieved the beheaded body of Nazmul Islam Mithu, 35, the currency trader, huddled in a TV carton from a dustbin behind Avishar Cinema Hall at Avoy Das Lane in Hatkhola yesterday noon. A deep cut almost severed the body from the waist. Scavengers found the box in the dustbin which was sealed with tape and the body was also wrapped in a blue plastic bag. A bloodstained pillow was found inside the box. They immediately informed the neighbours who called the police. Police sent the body to Mitford hospital for autopsy. Hands and legs of the victim were tied up with rope. Later, some locals chased a g a n g SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Criminal Joseph gets death sentence
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday handed listed criminal Tofael Ahmed (Joseph) his second death sentence in a murder case. Joseph got his first term on March 31 for killing Abu Morshed, a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader, in the city in 1995. Judge Abu Hanif of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 yesterday pronounced the verdict, which also sentenced Masudur Rahman (Masud) to death for killing one Mostafa in the city in 1996. Joseph's two brothers-Anis Ahmed and Haris Ahmed, and Kabil Sarker were given life term. Of the convicts, Joseph, Anis, Masud and Kabil were present in the court yesterday while Haris was tried in absentia. Haris also got life SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

AHSANULLAH KILLING Tongi chairman identifies two

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Police yesterday recorded the statement of Tongi municipality chairman who witnessed the May 7 shooting and identified two local drug peddlers Kana Hafiz and Anwar Hossain Anu firing on Ahsanullah Master and others on the dais in the conference of local Shechhasebak League. Following the home ministry directives to submit charge sheet of Ahsanullah murder case in a month, the four-member team of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) formed to probe the killing speeded up its activities. It talked with 10 other witnesses including one Sharifuddin Akash yesterday. Akash sustained bullet injury during the May 7 shooting. Witnesses said over 20 gunmen were involved in the May 7 mayhem that left the AL lawmaker and a schoolboy dead and at least five others injured. Chairman Azmat Ullah, who was standing beside Ahsanullah during the incident and escaped unscathed, said he saw about 12 youths including the two emerged from behind the stage shooting indiscriminately. "Kana Hafiz was firing from pistols in his both hands and Anu from one," he said while talking to The Daily Star. Hafiz, who is the fourth accused in the First Information Report (FIR), and Anu, the fifth, are members of a SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

US citizen held on suspicion
UNB, Dhaka

A Bangladeshi-born US citizen was arrested by law-enforcing agencies in Chittagong on Monday and taken on a ten-day remand for debriefing on his "suspicious movement". Enayet Karim, son of Abdul Karim of Shibganj in Sylhet, was offloaded by the police from Chittagong airport while boarding a Bangkok-bound flight at about 9:30am. Acting on a tip-off, intelligence and Potenga police rushed to the airport and nabbed Karim, who was carrying a Bangladeshi passport. He was taken to the Potenga Police Station and interrogated on his suspicious movement in Bangladesh. The officer-in-charge of Potenga police told the news agency that his movement was "suspicious". Sources said the suspect would be brought to Dhaka for interrogation by the Joint Interrogation Cell. They said he had stayed in Hotel Sheraton early this month for several days and left the hotel when some reports were published about his movement.

Bush outlines Iraq transition plans

France wants draft UN resolution to be improved; Council seeks control of oil, a say on troops

AGENCIES, Baghdad
Iraq's US-appointed governing council welcomed yesterday a draft UN resolution to formally end the America-led occupation, but insisted Iraqis should control oil revenues and have the right to ask foreign troops to leave. The head of the council, which is to give way to a caretaker government when Washington transfers sovereignty to Iraqis on June 30, said the final UN resolution outlining that handover must guarantee those rights. "The draft resolution is positive on many points, but there are some points that we hope to see revised in the interest of the Iraqi people and sovereignty," Sheikh Ghazi al-Yawar told reporters in Baghdad. The United States asked the United Nations to endorse its handover of power on June 30 to a "sovereign" Iraqi government but proposed US forces there be allowed to "take all measures" to keep order and set no date for them to leave. France meanwhile said the resolution UK needed to be improved if it was to work. France, which opposed the Iraq war, has the power of veto at the UN. Meanwhile, Russia says it wants to have a clear idea of what a transitional government in Iraq will look like before backing the resolution. Russia has been extremely cautious not to allow Washington to win retrospective UN blessing for the occupation. US President George W Bush Monday sought to shore up flagging support for his Iraq policies, outlining broad plans for the country's return to self-rule, including the demolition of the notorious Abu Ghraib prison. Faltering in public opinion polls, with his approval rating at an all-time low, Bush delivered the first in what is to be a series of confidence-building speeches in which he described a five-step process for Iraq's return to sovereignty on June 30. Under the plan, a transitional SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Mannan refused 'Kula' again
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The returning officer for Dhaka10 by-polls yesterday once again refused to allocate the election symbol, *kula*, to Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, as an independent candidate was given the same symbol by lottery. A meeting was held on the allocation of *kula* (winnowing fan) after the High Court directed Divisional Commissioner Mostak Ahmed, also returning officer for Dhaka, to reconsider his previous decision. Bikalpa Dhara candidate Abdul Mannan, who resigned from parliament on March 10 in protest at what he said was the ruling coalition's failure to run the country, rejected his election symbol "bench" and lodged a writ petition with the High Court. SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Petrobangla in talks with Unocal over Bibiyana gas
UNB, Dhaka

Petrobangla has begun negotiations with US oil giant Unocal for the development of Bibiyana gas field, aimed at feeding the domestic market only, sources concerned said. The negotiations began after the Energy and Mineral Resources Division gave a go-ahead for the Bibiyana development plan, approved earlier by Petrobangla, the state-run oil, gas and mineral corporation. While giving his nod recently, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Dangerous business ... a train makes way through makeshift business establishments built illegally at Jurain Bazar yesterday. Repeated attempts to evict the encroachers proved futile.

Abducted medical student still traceless
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The medical student of a private university here could not be traced three days after his abduction until yesterday. Nurul Azim Shikder, 23, an MBBS final year student of the University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) was going to USTC campus from his Panchlaish residence when the abductors on board a private car lifted him from Muradpur area, sources said. Sources said the kidnapers on the same day demanded of Azim's family TK 20 lakh for his release. They threatened to kill him if the ransom was not paid within the stipulated time that ended at 5:00pm Monday. The abductors also warned the family members of dire consequences if they tried to seek help of the law enforcers or briefed the press about the developments. Police raided four spots in the city and district in last 24 hours in search of the victim whose family members however repeatedly refused to cooperate. SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Outlaws kill abducted trader, kidnap headmaster

AMANUR AMAN, Kusthia
Durgapur High School in Sadar upazila Abul Kashem in the early hours of yesterday. The gang that kidnapped the trader was allegedly led by Ramzan Ali of West Majampur in the town. A mob later nabbed Ramzan, beat him up and handed him over to Sadar Police Station. The trader's family said they sought police help soon after the abduction but police advised them to look for the victim on their own. In the other incident, a gang of 15 outlaws in the guise of police stormed into the house of Abul Kashem at village Nahordia and kidnapped him. The headmaster is also a leader of the local 'terrorist protection committee'. The gang fled firing blank shots to create panic among local people. The abductors later sent to Kashem's family a written message with a cell phone number, demanding Tk 10 lakh within a short time. Otherwise, they would kill him, the message warned. Meanwhile, the students, teachers and local people held a protest rally and demanded immediate rescue of the teacher. Other schools in the area also remained closed yesterday to press the demand. A case was filed with Sadar Police Station.

Prayer Timing		
May 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

