



The Daily Star

TODAY'S ISSUE 20 PAGES



COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIV No. 137

DHAKA TUESDAY JUNE 8, 2004

www.thedailystar.net

JAISTHA 25, 1411 BS

RABI-US-SANI 18, 1425 HURI

20 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00

MUNSHIGANJ BY-POLLS RESULT

Boost for opposition, worry for BNP

SHAKHAWAT LITON

By-polls debacle of the BNP in Munshiganj-1 has sent a sense of worry in the key ruling party and emboldened the opposition in the anti-government movement and in fighting the next Dhaka-10 by-election.

Opposition parties yesterday termed Sunday's result as a reflection of people's verdict against the misrule of the four-party coalition, while BNP leaders said defeat in a seat did not mean the popularity of the government was on the wane.

The opposition, including the Awami League (AL), lent support to Bikalpa Dhara candidate Mahi B Chowdhury and is likely to follow the same line in Dhaka-10 by-polls.

Despite putting on a brave face on the polls defeat, BNP leaders said they were worried about Dhaka-10 by-polls and were thinking of holding the election as early as possible before the opposition unity consolidated.

A victory in the capital will prove the government has not lost its popularity, they believe. According to the plan to hasten

Dhaka-10 by-polls, the Election Commission and the returning officer will not contest the case.

If the High Court (HC) directs the returning officer to allocate 'Kula' (winning fan) symbol to Bikalpa Dhara candidate retired army major Abdul Mannan, the order will be carried out without filing any appeal.

The by-election was slated for June 6 along with the Munshiganj constituency, but the HC stayed the polls until June 12 over the symbol dispute.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

POST-MFA QUOTA REGIME

RMG export may fall 5pc in FY06 IMF projects

REHAUL KARIM BYRON

The looming expiry of Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA) quotas will cause at least a 5-percent decline in apparel export from Bangladesh in financial year (FY) 2005-06, projected an International Monetary Fund (IMF) study.

The decline may push down the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth by one percentage

point, besides generating additional financing requirement of almost \$800 million, added the study report.

But, Prof Mustafizur Rahman, research director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a leading independent think-tank of the country, did not entirely agree with the IMF views on post-MFA export decline. For instance, he said, "In some

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

1 killed in attack on Mahi's victory parade

UNB, Munshiganj

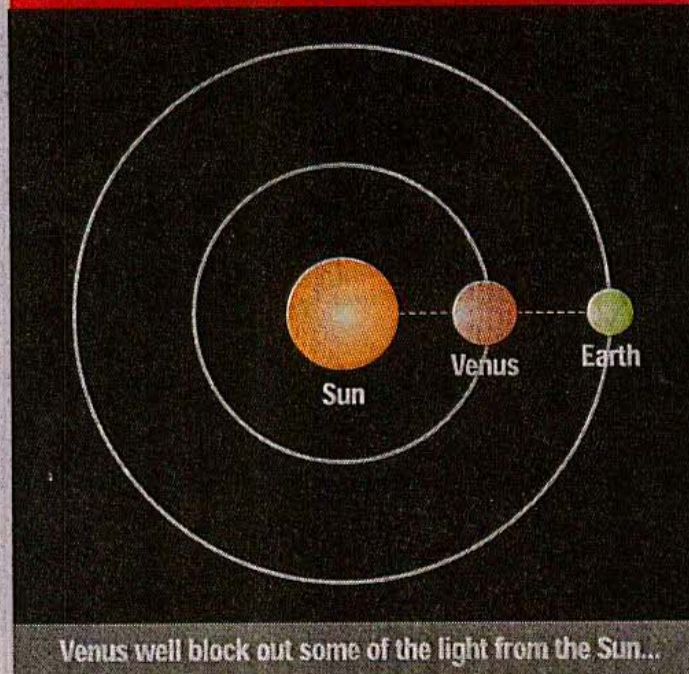
A supporter of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) was killed and several others were injured in an attack on the victory procession of MP-elect Mahi B Chowdhury at Kamargaon in Srinagar upazila yesterday.

The victim, Masum, 22, was chopped to death and his brother Mamun critically wounded while they were leading a victory procession toward Srinagar Upazila headquarters at about 4:00pm.

Masum was rushed to Sholoshara Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

TRANSIT OF VENUS



Venus will block out some of the light from the Sun...

Venus blocks out sunlight today

Looking directly at the sun with naked eye or through open telescope or binoculars can cause blindness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The planet Venus is set to glide across the face of the Sun today, a rare event that will last 100 times longer than a solar eclipse and could cause blindness.

The six-hour transit has not been witnessed by anyone living and has not occurred for 122 years, and observers will position themselves in Asia, Europe and Africa to get the

best view.

Scientists will use the event to test technologies they will soon deploy to detect similar sized worlds orbiting stars tens of light-years away.

Venus will appear as a tiny black disc against the Earth but no-one should look for it without the proper equipment.

Looking directly at the Sun with

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

NGOs getting bigger healthcare role

NAIMUL HAQ

The government is engaging more non-government organisations (NGOs) in healthcare service provision following donors' rebuke for poor implementation of some major health programmes involving Tk1,172 crore in recent times.

Sources said many of the donor-supported health programmes

failed to achieve their goals due to mismanagement, political interference, corruption and delay in implementation, resulting even in withdrawal of funds in some cases.

Among the key health projects in which the government is obliged to augment involvement of NGOs are the HIV/AIDS Programme, National Nutrition Project, National TB Programme and Community

Clinics.

Though launched back in January 2001, due to 'major design faults', the HIV/AIDS Programme still exists in paper alone and is struggling to work out a process of its implementation. The programme was meant to complement and support the HIV/AIDS prevention activities of the government's

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Nurul Islam charged with leaking information

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bureau of Anti-corruption (Bac) yesterday filed a case against AHM Nurul Islam, forced into retirement as the acting secretary to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), and three employees on charge of leaking

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Norwegian aid dips by 40pc

Poor governance, law and order blamed

UNB, Dhaka

Norwegian grants for Bangladesh development programmes have been reduced 40 percent for 'lack of good governance and law and order

Norwegian Ambassador in Bangladesh Aud Lise Norheim made the observations, also citing slow implementation of development projects and corruption as the other causes of the crunch.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Tigers stare at heavy defeat

RABEED IMAM from Kingston, Jamaica

Bangladesh plunged into deep trouble when they lost four wickets for just one run fifteen minutes before lunch on the fourth day of the second and final Test at Sabina Park yesterday.

Set score to 275 runs to avoid an

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Standard Chartered

We believe
seeing is believing

Standard Chartered Bank's
Global fund raising campaign raised \$1,400,000
to restore the sight of 56,000 people.

no experience....

no MBA

Yes, at the Victoria University, Dhaka Study Centre we strictly adhere to work experience requirements (at least 2 years) to match our global standards. Major attractions of our programme include: Faculty from Melbourne Campus for every subject; same certificates are awarded to graduates at Melbourne, Singapore, Beijing and Dhaka; credit transfer to Melbourne and our other campuses; and evening classes only to suit professionals and other people at work. Victoria is a state owned university based in Melbourne, Australia with over 55,000 students (including 3,000 students in its' offshore campuses).

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

MBA Admission Test: June 25, 2004 ♦ Application Deadline: June 21, 2004

Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia
Dhaka Study Centre
House 55, Road 4A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209.
Phone: 9661172-73 Mobile: 0171 679 538 Fax: 880-2-8610038

CRICOS PROVIDER NO 00124K

www.vu.edu.au

THE MORE YOU SEE THE MORE YOU WANT

TOYOTA

May Japan Trade Show create a concrete relationship between Japan-Bangladesh.

Navana Limited
Navana Toyota 3s center, 205-207 Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208 TEL:9890289, 9893048 FAX:9885002
MOBILE:0171-595405, 0171-980313, 0189-263627, 0171-187204, 0189-148333, 0189-294271
E-MAIL:lgmnavana@aoltd.net, ghiasnvn@citechco.net

• Aftab Automobiles Ltd. • Navana Paints • Navana Battery • Navana Computers • Navana Real Estate • Navana Constructions • Navana Electronics
• Navana Taxi Cab • Navana Interlink • Navana Bipopon • Navana Textiles • Navana Distributions • Navana Toyota 3S Center • Navana CNG

Teacher's Loan

মহৎ পেশা, মহৎ সেবা

- No Security
- Fastest Processing Time
- Small Monthly Installments
- Minimum Loan Documentation

BRAC Bank Ltd

For more information please contact any of our branches:

Dhaka : 882 4053, 955 0307, 955 0382, 913 7155, 815 0198, 885 8796, 885 8798, 935 5538-9, 712 5000, 777 2661-2,
Chittagong : 031-812089, Sylhet : 0821-720188, 08223-87746