

6 Bangladeshis held in Iran for illegal entry

UNB, Dhaka

Iranian police arrested six Bangladeshi nationals from a city near Turkish border for illegal entry yesterday, Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

The six were taken to a police camp in Julfa city for interrogation, IRNA reported, quoting local police.

The arrestees, who told their names as Sarwar, Mahbul, Salam, Delwar, Ronik and Routuk, claimed that Turkish police had seized their travel papers before forcing them to enter Iran.

The six can speak only Bangla and as such Iranian police are taking the help of Bengali translator for interrogation.

About a week ago, Pakistani border guards arrested 12

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Use local govt more to effect pro-poor growth

Economists urge govt at pre-budget talks, suggest safeguards to prevent misuse of pro-polls ADP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should utilise the long-neglected local government bodies for resource collection and expenditure to achieve a significant revenue growth and poverty reduction, the country's leading economists told a pre-budget seminar yesterday.

At the seminar, with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman as the chief guest, the economists also suggested that the government

should have some safeguards in implementing the rather large, politically weighed development budget.

They said assessment of the country's recent economic growth shows an increased rate of under-employment, making the growth less pro-poor. To effect a more pro-poor growth, they said, the new budget should create incentives for labour intensive sectors and employment generation, and reverse the anti-poor trends.

At the discussion on 'National Budget for 2005-06 and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)' organised by Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies (BIDS), Saifur Rahman however claimed, "There is no unemployment among the labourers. But it is there among the educated people."

He said, "All of our lawmakers make unending demands for road construction in their constituencies. This creates jobs directly. But there

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Dhaka hosts 9th Bimstec Senior Officials Meet on June 1

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The ninth Bimstec Senior Officials Meeting, a forum of the foreign secretaries of the regional economic grouping, will be held on June 1 in Dhaka.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan will inaugurate the meeting at 10:00am at Hotel Sheraton Grand Ballroom, said a press release.

Bangladesh will assume chairmanship of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) as Thailand serves out its term.

Foreign Secretary Hema-yetuddin will also take over as the chairman of the Senior Officials

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A traders' association erects a makeshift camp, throttling the city thoroughfare, in front of Shantinagar Market yesterday to hold a destitute-feeding programme to mark the 24th death anniversary of Ziaur Rahman.



Dhaka University students stand around the accident spot at Shahbagh intersection yesterday morning, mourning Shammee Akhter Happy, a third-year student of psychology, killed by a speeding bus Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

NARSINGDI BY-POLLS BNP top brass calls in Khokon, 5 rebels

BDNEWS, Narsingdi

In the wake of fierce protests against ruling BNP's nomination for Narsingdi by-election, the party high command yesterday summoned all five dissident candidates as well as the party-nominee Khairul

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Govt urged to form strategic think-tanks for FDI bargains

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday suggested the government to develop strategic think-tanks in the

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Failure to act against bigots in Satkhira deplored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism (SAPUFC) yesterday deplored Satkhira district administration's failure to act against religious bigots

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New rules to try Rab offenders

Maximum penalty life term

UNB, Dhaka

Babar after meeting with Rab high officials at his ministry yesterday.

The Special Court headed by an additional inspector general of police and comprising another person having the status of a police superintendent will have the power to award a minimum of seven years to the maximum of lifetime imprisonment.

A deputy inspector general of police will head the Summary Court which will comprise another person holding the post equivalent to a police superintendent.

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Dhaka key US ally in mending religious rifts

Says FM on return from America

UNB, Dhaka

The United States considers Bangladesh an "unavoidable partner" to bridge the gap that has "unfortunately" been created between religious divides across the world of late, Foreign Minister (FM) Morshed Khan said yesterday.

"There is no doubt that Bangladesh and America will have to work together to repair the rift and move the conflicting positions in the world based on religious divides," he told reporters at the Zia International Airport on his return

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Hijack hoax at ZIA: one arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a man from Zia International Airport (ZIA) on Saturday after he told the crew of a domestic flight of Bangladesh Biman that a gang employed him to hijack the aircraft.

On his arrival at the ZIA on a flight from Jessore at about 10:30am on Saturday, Ruhul Aziz Mukul, 32, told the crew that a terrorist group had trained him how to hijack an aircraft without any firearms and explosives.

Mukul then asked them to take

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CAMPUS VIOLENCE Dr Kamal calls for a consensus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acclaimed lawyer and President of Jatiya Oikya Mancha Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday emphasised the need for consensus among all concerned to curb campus violence.

He accused a vested quarter of the "vice" of supplying arms to the university students - the most meritorious segment of the society - which has been ultimately forcing the country into anarchy and

destruction.

"A section of people has been carrying out this immoral activity to remain in power. Money and muscle have been forcing the country into destruction," Dr Kamal said addressing a roundtable discussion organised by the Swadhinata O Nagorik Adhikar Forum, a civil society platform, at the Cirdap auditorium as the chief guest.

Dr Kamal said multi-party

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9 Iraqi soldiers die in suicide blast

12 others killed in attacks; British soldier slain

AFP, Baghdad

Thousands of Iraqi forces threw a security net over Baghdad yesterday in an attempt to seize the initiative from insurgents who quickly killed nine troops taking part in the operation in a bombing.

Two other bomb blasts hit the capital, killing five people, while violence elsewhere claimed the lives of a British soldier and seven Iraqis.

"Nine soldiers were killed and three others wounded when a suicide bomber ploughed his car bomb into an army roadblock between Yusufiyah and Mahmudiyah," a defence ministry official said.

The checkpoint just south of Baghdad had been set up as part of Operation Lightning, the official added.

In western Baghdad, a car bomb targeting police commandos killed

'Robber' killed in 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A robber was killed in 'crossfire' between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and his accomplices near Mongla meteorological office in

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Prayer Timing		
May 30		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35
Source: Islamic Foundation		