

# Australia to continue cooperation in dev

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Australia will continue its cooperation in the development process of Bangladesh, Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Lorraine Barkar said yesterday.

She assured of expanding cooperation and stressed the need for exchange of visit by the senior officials.

The Australian High Commissioner was exchanging views with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid at the secretariat.

The minister told her that the government decided to provide allowance to the disabled persons from next fiscal aimed at ensuring the social security of the neglected segment of the society.

The government has also taken a plan to construct a 'National Disability Development Complex' to bring the disable persons into the national economic activities.

The government has taken various allowance programmes including interest free loan projects as part of poverty alleviation activities, he added.

Deputy Commissioner Richard

Rodgers and Joint Secretary of the ministry Mohammad Abdul Karim were present.

## Hartal in Rangpur today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The Greater Rangpur Development Forum will enforce a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Rangpur today to press home its 12-point demand, including declaring Rangpur a division.

The Forum leaders called the hartal at a rally at the court square yesterday.

They said development would not take place in greater Rangpur and Dinajpur unless Rangpur along with eight northern districts is not made a division.

Organising Secretary of the Jatiya party (Ershad) Noor Ahmed Tulu, Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Shahidur Rahman Dollar and convenor of the Forum Mozaffer Hossain Chad spoke at the rally.

Later, the leaders handed over a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Nazrul Islam.



Navidul Haq, director of Mohammadi Group, hands over a cheque for Tk 5 lakh to Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed of Bishwa Sahitya Kendro in the city yesterday to help implement various cultural projects of the Kendro.

# Rab nets two on charge of mugging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested two persons in connection with the snatching Tk11.30 lakh of a garment factory last month.

Rab also recovered two pistols from their possession at Bohaddarhat under Chandgaon Police Station.

The arrestees are Md Nizamuddin, 28, of Chatkhil in Noakhali, and Mohammad Shafi, 25, of Longadu in Rangamati.

Acting on a tip off, the Rab team

raided Liton Tower in Faridarpara of Bohaddarhat at around 9:30am and arrested the two with one US and one Italy-made pistols and 11 bullets. They were accused in the mugging of Tk11.30 lakh from officials of Premier Fashion Wear Limited at Abdus Sattar Road under Kotwali PS on May 17. During interrogations yesterday under Rab custody they confessed to the mugging.

Nizam, who leads the three muggers' gangs in the city, told journalists yesterday that his gang has long been involved in mugging and mugged around Tk 70,000 in three separate incidents recently.

He said one Sarwar Milon, now in jail, is the linchpin of all three gangs operating in the city. Other members of the gang are Lokman, Momen, Shah Paran, Shahid, Sujal, Sohrab and Rubel.

"We generally conduct operation every alternate day in the city in separate groups and a total of 30 to 40 muggers are engaged in this crime," Nizam added.

# Floor of filling station collapses in B'baria, 20 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 20 people were injured when an underconstruction floor of a filling station at Chandura collapsed yesterday.

Of the injured, filling station owner Mahbubur Rahman, 35, Babu, 35, Hakim Mia, 35, and Javed Sarker, 28, were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

According to eyewitnesses, the floor of one building at Chandura Rahman Filling Station collapsed at around 5:00pm.

On information, fire brigade men and police rushed to the spot and started the rescue work.

## Hartal cannot be banned thru' law: Moudud

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said hartal cannot be banned through enacting law.

"Hartal should be banned on the basis of a national consensus. A public opinion has already been created in the country on banning hartal programme and student politics, and making the political parties' registration compulsory. Political parties and professional bodies should reach a national consensus in this regard after holding discussions," he said.

Briefing newsmen at his secretariat office, Moudud said people do not want hartal since it does not bring any good to them.

He said there are many countries in the world, including Britain, New Zealand and Canada, where registration for the political parties is mandatory.

"Any government, whichever may be in power, should pay heed to the people's demand," he said.



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Finance Anwarul Kabir Talukder speaks at a roundtable titled " Budget 2005-2006 and its impact on different sectors" at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. Jatiyatabadi Peshajibi Parishad organised the event.

# 2 indigenous people held in Bandarban

## Arms, money recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Joint security forces yesterday arrested two indigenous people and recovered a country-made gun and Tk 33,000 from their possession.

The two – Kya Hla Ching Karbari, 50, and Gyanandu Tanchangya – were arrested from the remote areas of the district.

Security forces suspected that the money was collected in toll for the Democratic Party of Arakan (DPA), an

usual practice in the locality.

Local people said the DPA has recently set up another hideout in the deep forest in Myanmar-Bangladesh border area after its hideout at Betchhara Baidyapara near the city was busted by the security forces.

Sources said the DPA members are still extorting money from businessmen through their agents.

Meanwhile, the joint forces, comprising personnel from army and Bangladesh Rifles, recovered 25 bullets of M-16 rifle at Eidgarh in Naikhangchhari yesterday morning.

The bullets were recovered following information provided by four Myanmar rebels arrested from Narkelbunia in Naikhangchhari on Sunday.

One of the arrestees was identified as Tai Jo Khoy, chief of National United Party of Arakan (NUPA).

Security sources said they are quizzing the four. They might have been taken to the joint interrogation cell to extract more information, the sources added.

# 4 more eco parks to be set up

BSS, Dhaka

The government will establish four new eco parks in addition to the present five, Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

He said in reply to a question from Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anny of BNP (Laxmipur-3), the proposed new eco parks will be established at Aluttila of Khagrachhari, Tilagar and Barshijora of Sylhet and Kuakata sea shore in Patuakhali.

The present five eco parks are at Madab Kunda in Sylhet, Gazni Rest Centre in Sherpur, Madhutla in Mymensingh, Banskhal and Sitakundain Chittagong.

# 1,441 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,441 people on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours as of 6:00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers recovered nine firearms and 10 bullets, says a police headquarters press release.