# METROPOLITAN/NEWS

## The Daily Star

# Expats send \$3517.6m till May

## Saifur tells Parliament

### UNB, Dhaka

Expatriate Bangladeshis sent home 3517.60 million US dollar till May in the outgoing fiscal year.

This is 453.37 million US dollar or 14.8 per cent more than the last fiscal year, Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman told Abdus Subhan (Jamaat-Pabna) during the question hour in Parliament yesterday.

Replying to MAH Selim (BNP-Bagerhat), he said the state-owned banks have already reduced the rate of interest on loans to agriculture and agro-based industries.

The Minister said the budget for FY 2005-06 proposed to re-fix the interest rate at 2 per cent from previous 8 per cent on some crops,

REPRESSION ON 'Make report public'

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist leaders yesterday demanded immediate publication of the probe report on police atrocities on journalists at the National Press Club in the city on June 21. 1992.

Speaking at a discussion, they also expressed deep sorrow and anger at the failure of the government in making the report public.

The discussion was organised jointly by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) to mark the Journalists Repression Day.

The speakers demanded punishment to the persons responsible for the incident and compensation for the injured journalists

They said the report was not made public despite repeated assurance by the government which is still continuing repression on journalists throughout the country.

The speakers urged all to unite against repression and murder of the journalists.

Presided over by BFUJ acting President Syed Akhtar Yousuf, the discussion was participated by BFUJ Secretary General Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, DUJ President Altaf Mahmud, Mahfuzul Hague Khan, Saiful Islam Talukdar, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Omar Farook, Kazi Abdul Hannan, Patrick De Costa, Amio Ghatak and Jaharlal Chandra Das

**ARSENIC PROBLEM** 

including pulses, oilseeds, spices and corns, from July 1. He told Golam Mohammad Siraj (BNP-Bogra) that the government

products, electronics products, CR Coil, cards and calendars, station earned Tk 1018.73 crore as revearv products, silk cloth, handicraft nue from Benapole land port in 11 products and herbal medicines. months till May of the current fiscal He informed the House that the year (2004-05).

next budget also proposed cash Replying to MA Hashem (BNPincentives for frozen shrimps and Noakhali), he said the government other fish products (10 per cent), has declared five export-oriented bicycle (15 per cent), agriculture and agro-based products (30 per sectors -- software and ICT prodcent), local textiles sector including ucts, agri-products and agroprocessing, light engineering prodhandloom (5 per cent), jute products ucts, leather goods and high-value (7.5 per cent), leather goods (15 per cent), potato (15 per cent), handireadymade garments -- as the top priority sectors as part of its strategy craft products (10-15 per cent) and for export development. bone powder (15 per cent).

The government has also identified 10 other sectors as special export developmenmt area. These SUJAN MURDER SC cancels bail of former BNP MP Dr Rawshan BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday cancelled a High Court order granting ad-interim bail to Dr Rawshan Alam, a former lawmaker of ruling BNP, who was convicted for life imprisonment in Shahjahan Hawladar Sujan murder case.

After hearing an appeal petition filed by the state seeking cancellation of the High Court order, a bench of the Appellate Division comprising Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassin Husain, Justice Fazlul Karim and Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury passed the order

A High Court bench comprising Justice Abdur Rashid and Justice Syed Refat Ahmed granted the adinterim bail to Dr Rawshan Alam on May 10.

. Shahjahan Hawladar Sujan, who was elected lawmaker twice from Banchharampur of Brahmanbaria from BNP, was abducted from Dhaka and killed on July 3, 2001.

A case was filed in this regard with Teigaon police station. Speedy Trial Tribunal-4, Dhaka.

JCD has no link on March 13, convicted Dr Rawshan Alam with life-term imprisonment for the murder.

Additional Attorney General Abdur Rezzak Khan and Deputy Attorney General Helaluddin Mollah moved for the government before the court while advocates TH Khar for Dr Rawshan Alam.

# with hijackers

## Bhuiyan says in JS

## **UNB**, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday rejected the allegations that three students of Dhaka College, arrested

for hijacking, are members of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). The students were arrested in connection with the incident of snatching at Uma Jewelers at the Baitul Mokarram Market in the city on Sunday.

"They are no longer involved in JCD politics and had been expelled from JCD 2/3 years ago," he said in Parliament replying to Bangabir Kader Siddigui's demand for the

government reaction to the incident. Though some newspapers identified them as JCD leaders, JCD has no connection with such criminals, Bhuiyan said, adding that the government is determined to take tough action against hijackers, robbers and

killers whatever party might they belong to. "Already they were arrested, brought on police remand and a case

has been filed in the Speedy Trial Tribunal. Police are hunting for others," he said. Earlier, Kader Siddiqui expressed

### his concern over the mugging of $\mathsf{Tk}$ 12 lakh, allegedly by the JCD leaders, and requested the government to clarify its stand over the incident. Siddigui wondered how brilliant

students of prestigious Dhaka College could end up as hijackers. .. if the student leaders do not possess good character, how will

they lead the nation?" he said.

include pharmaceuticals, cosmetics

and toiletries, luggage and fashion

## Obituary

Sadrul Hasan, a senior member of the National day. Press Club, passed away at Birdam Hospital on Monday after a prolonged llness at the age of 62, says a press release.

He worked with now-defunct The Bangladesh Times He is survived by his wife and two

daughters Press Club President Reazuddin Ahmed and General Secretary Shawkat Mahmud expressed deep shock at the death of Hasan.

## Hajj agreement signed with Saudi Arabia

## UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia have signed bilateral Hajj agreement 2006

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan signed the agreement with Saudi Hajj Minister in Saudi Arabia, said a handout here yester-

It said Mosharraf, who returned home vesterday from Saudi Arabia. also signed four supplementary agreements with Moyassasa Organisation Chief and General Transport Organisation in Makkah, United Agent Office in Jeddah and Adillah Organisation in Madina.

3 schoolboys killed, 50 hurt as picnic bus skids off road

## **UNB**, Joypurhat

Three schoolboys died and 50 others were injured when a picnic **UNB**, Dhaka



Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Mujibul Haq of Belhasa Accom & Associates Ltd. sign an agreement on construction and maintenance of Jatrabari-Gulistan flyover at Nagar Bhaban in the city yesterday.

## AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK Govt trying to divert course of investigation: AL

Awami League leaders yesterday accused the government of trying to divert the course of investigation

Blaming the BNP-Jamaat alliance government for the grenade attack, they said it is not possible to bring the real culprits to justice until the government is toppled.

the government is now making a show that it is trying actively to track down the culprits although ten months have already elapsed after

the incident, said AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta at a rally in the city

The BNP-Jamaat alliance carried out the grenade attack as it wants to cling to power forever by killing the AL president and other top leaders, he said.

Framing a fabricated charge sheet, the government wants to prove that Awami League itself is responsible for the grenade attack on its rally, said AL Joint Secretary Obaidul Quader.

Now the government is trying to make the charge sheet credible through Interpol, he added.

Hossain Amu called on the countrymen to unite in favour of the reforms in the caretaker government system

and the election commission. AL presidium member Abdur Razzaq, Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanak, General Secretary Mirza Azam MP, Mofazzal Hossin Chowdhury Maya, Abdul Latif. Haii Selim. advocate Sahara Khatun and Chhatra League leader Liagat Shikder also spoke.

The Awami Jubo League organised the rally as part of its programme marking the 21st day of every month as 'black day' until the perpetrators of August 21 grenade attack are brought to book

Canadian Press (CP) on line. But Sampson said the Toyota and Cruiser and all of its paperwork was in Bapex's name, not A.K.M. Mosharraf Hossain's, who resigned over the weekend.

Niko again

Mosharraf

The chief executive of Calgary-

based Niko Resources Ltd on

Monday denied reports that his

company bribed former state minis-

ter for energy AKM Mosharraf

Hossain of Bangladesh, where Niko

is developing natural gas reserves.

Chairman Edward Sampson said a

joint venture agreement with

Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration

Company (Bapex) includes provid-

ing a sports utility vehicle to the

company, according to a report by

Niko's President, CEO and

denies

bribing

UNB, Dhaka

"We really have no control whatsoever--once we've given the vehicle to Bapex - where the vehicle goes," Sampson said in an interview.

"We're following the letter of the joint operating agreement, as laid out by the government, signed by the government, and all we're doing is following the rules we signed."

and India.

Niko ch opera only

Its shares closed on Monday at

\$61.40, down 10 cents a share. The

company currently has a stock

market value of \$2.35 billion with

The company said Monday that it

'got pulled into" a scandal arising

from a series of media reports over

the weekend that alleged Mosharraf

In January, Niko was blamed for

a blowout and fire in the Chattak gas

received the car directly from Niko.

just 127 employees as of year end.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

an ulterior motive.

Under the international pressure,

## into the August 21 grenade attack by cooking up a false probe report with

AL programmes to celebrate founding

anniversary

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday said they would

the country through politicisation at STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi all levels. Members of the executive have now turned into political cad-

AL presidium member Amir

AL won't join polls without reforms in EC, CG: Jalil

## Teesta barrages

#### **UNB**, Dhaka

Two US environment experts in an article blamed groundwater arsenic poisoning in Bangladesh on Farakka. Teesta and other dams and barrages

Thomas E Bridge, professor of geology (emeritus) of Emporia State University, Kansas, USA and Meer T Husain, environmental geologist, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, in their article suggested that the natural groundwater flow that existed prior to 1975 should be restored by removing all dams and barrages that India constructed in the common rivers of Bangladesh and India.

"The removal of dams and barrages and the dredging of rivers will decrease the number of disasters in both Bangladesh and in the upstream region of India." accord-

## Two brothers get life for killing minor boy

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A court in Sylhet yesterday sentenced two brothers to life imprisonment for murdering a minor boy.

They are Nuruddin and his brother Maniruddin of village Dokharpar under Golapganj upazila.

District and Sessions Judge ANM Bashir Ullah passed the verdict.

The court also fined the convicts Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer six months more imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, Nuruddin and Maniruddin killed Abdul Quadir, 10, a boy of the same village using local weapons on January 5, 1997.

They became annoyed with Quadir as he showed the police the way to their home on the previous day.

The police went to the village after receiving an allegation of antisocial activities in that house

ing to the article titled, "Groundwater arsenic poisoning and solution to the arsenic disaster in

**US experts blame it on Farakka**,

Bangladesh." The experts, however, apprehended that the flushing of arsenic contaminants might take a long time but observed that the removal of dams and barrages affecting Bangladesh would provide plenty of water during the dry season for drinking, irrigation and industry.

"The river water should be filtered, treated, continually tested and delivered through a closed system to provide a safe water supply for the nation," the article said

A comprehensive plan not only for water supplies but also associated waste disposal should be worked out for all of Bangladesh, the experts said, adding that individual units within the plan could be

UNB, Dhaka

Met Office said.

5:12am tomorrow.

City/Town

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Svlhet

Cox's Bazar

Dhaka

developed on the basis of need and tied into the overall plan as it develops.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is

likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and

at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country,

Yesterday's highest temperature of 37.7 degree Celsius was

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in

Min

28.5

27.5

27.4

28.0

27.6

25.7

27.5

recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 25 degrees at Dinajpur.

Temperature

in Celsius

**Thundershowers likely** 

during the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Max

35.0

34.6

36.0

36.0

34.4

31.5

34.0

Other environmental problems such as waste disposal, flooding, water diversion projects, river control, wildlife protection, desertification, land subsidence, earthquake damage control and other environmental problems could be integrated and approached in the same way, they said.

According to them, lowering of the water table resulted in the exposure to air in the zone of aeration This exposure resulted in the oxidation of arsenic minerals previously present below the water table in the Bengal sediments.

The arsenic oxides migrated to the groundwater and were reduced to the poisonous forms in the reducing environments below the water table, they said.

Humidity in

percentage

Evening

67

73

76

65

80

78

76

Morning

77

62

74

74

85

96

70

ous skidded oπ the Joypurnat-Hil highway and fell into a ditch at Nakargachhi in Panchbibi upazila early yesterday.

Survivors said the accident occurred at about 1:00am as the driver of the vehicle lost control over the steering, killing Sajjadul of class IX, Enamul of class VI and Shariful of class X on the spot and injuring 50 others

Of the injured, 18 were admitted to Sadar Hospital while the remaining 32 were released after first aid.

Police on preliminary investigation said some 65 students, teachers and guardians of Dudangi village in Manda upazila of Naogaon district went to picnic spot 'Swapnapuri' in Dinajpur on Monday. They met with the accident on way back home.

Kalurghat Rail Bridge opens today

#### BDNEWS, Chittagong

Kalurghat Rail Bridge with road Chittagong' will be launched in the port facilities will be opened for the city today. movement of heavy vehicles on today while Shah Amanat Bridge on the Karnaphuli river will be reopened in January after renovation work

Bangladesh Railway (BR) sources said Kalurghat Rail Bridge was going to be opened four months after the scheduled time. The renovation cost Tk 10 crore.

Shafiqul Alam, deputy director of Eastern Zone of BR , said the work was completed on June 15 and the bridge will be opened in the presence of Communications Minister Nazmul Huda.

The bridge was closed to both road and rail transport for a long

time. Additional Chief Engineer Anwar Ahmed of the Department of Roads and Highways said the ferry service, which was introduced to substitute for the bridge, will remain in operation till September. The contracting agency in charge of Shah Amanat Bridge had opened an LC for import of wood from Brazil to be used in the bridge deck, he added. The wood will arrive by September and the renovation will be completed by December, he added. He expressed the hope that the bridge would be reopened in January

Awami League has drawn up an elaborate programme to celebrate its 56th founding anniversary tomorrow.

The programmes include placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Bhaban and at his mazar in Tungipara at about 7:00am on the day, says a party press release.

Awami League will bring out a procession from in front of the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office at 3:00pm.

A discussion and cultural programme will be held at the Engineers Institute at about 3:00pm on Šaturday.

Aids awareness campaign to be launched in Ctg today STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

## An awareness campaign against HIV and Aids styled as 'Express 2005

**UNB.**Dhaka

region

September

Jointly organised by the Bangladesh Centre for A high level meeting to discuss ways of Communication Programmes achieving the target of the health related (BCCP) and the Square Group, the indicators of the millenium development countrywide campaign aims at raising goals (MDGs) in Asia-Pacific region awareness about the deadly disease began in Tokyo vesterday. through dissemination of correct The two-day meeting, hosted by

information about it. The slogan of this campaign is 'We Development Bank (ADB) and will Know, Speak and Resist the World Health Organisation (Who), is HIV/Aids. being participated by the Ministers

The launching ceremony will begin for Health and Finance and repreat the auditorium of Engineers sentatives of the development Institutions here at 5:00pm. partners from 24 countries of the

workers, young boys and girls, gov-ernment officials, NGO representatives, religious leaders and social activists will share their views and place suggestions at the programme, said the organisers at a press confer-

ence yesterday. Singer Kumar Biswajit will also perform at the function, they said.

Earlier, the campaign was aunched in Dhaka on May 29 and in Rajshahi on June 15. Similar programmes will also be held in Sylhet. Barisal and Khulna.

AK Reza Galib of Mediacom Ltd, Md Yousuf Chowdhury of Square, Maruf Kabir of BCCP and actor Monir Khan Shimul attended the press conference held at the Chittagong Press Club.

not join any elections without reforms in the Election Commission and the caretaker government system.

"Corruption have penetrated in every sphere of life. Politicisation and nepotism have ruined the three pillars of the state- executive, judiciary and legislature. Under this situation, no election could be fair," he said

Jalil was speaking at a reception accorded to Sardar Amjad Hossain, a Jatiya Party leader who joined the AL last month, at Bhabaniganj in Bagmara upazila. Local AL leader Nurul Islam

Master chaired the function which was addressed by Khairuzzaman Liton and Tajul Islam Md Faruk.

Jalil said there is no alternative but to topple the alliance government for establishing a democratic and secular country.

Japan in cooperation with Asian

A three-member Bangladesh

delegation, led by Health and

Family Welfare Minister Dr.

Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, is

recommendations to be placed at

the G8 Gleneagles Summit sched-

uled for next month and also at the

UN General Assembly in

Japanese official sources said

Japan will emphasise increasing

assistance to a successful human

security related ODA project for

In the "Okinawa Infectious

achieving the health related MDGs.

Diseases Initiative" in 2000, Japan

pledged 3 billion US dollar to

The meeting will make some

attending the meeting.

"The government has destroyed

**Tokyo meet on MDG** 

in health begins

The AL leader termed the budget South Asia, has seen its share price as 'electoral bribe' and said the increase by more than six times in government cheated countrymen the past three years with large through it. energy discoveries in Bangladesh

This budget has permitted an unjust allocation of Tk 365 crore for prime minister's office. The amount was only Tk 57 crore in last several vears." he claimed.

res," he added.

Jalil said the BNP-Jamaat government has been provoking communalism by patronising militants like Bangla Bhai and Galib.

Earlier in the morning, thousands of AI, leaders and workers welcomed Sardar Amjad at Rajshahi Airport as he flew here from Dhaka for the first time since his joining the party.

He addressed a number of roadside meetings on his way to Bagmara. Amjad told the gatherings that he

had joined the AL for strengthening the pro-liberation forces.

enhance cooperation for the next

five years and provided 4.1 billion

achieve the health-related targets of

Robbers looted valuables worth at

least Tk 2.5 lakh from a house at Uttar

cut the grills and entered the first floor

of the house of one Md Yunus at about

Ilma, 2, and Hamim, 3, as hostage at

gunpoint and tied all other members of

looted 12 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk

70,000 in cash, three mobile handsets

for their alleged involvement in the

and other valuables, police added.

Police said a gang of eight robbers

They held his two grandchildren

The robbers then took the keys and

Five persons have been arrested

US dollar from 2000 to 2003.

Robbery in

city house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Badda in the city yesterday.

the MDGs.

3:00am.

the family

robbery.

field, reportedly causing damage to at least 10 billion cubic feet of gas worth about \$2.5 million, according to a Dhaka newspaper report. A government probe committee held the Niko Resources responsible for the blowout and recom-

mended the government to realise the compensation from the company.

## Repression on indigenous woman

Japan has announced that it condemned would not only continue its assistance, but increase it further to

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday condemned the repression on an indigenous woman by a union parishad (UP) member in Thakurgaon on June 16.

In a statement, the parishad demanded exemplary punishment to the culprit

who let loose a torture of 'medieval style' on the pregnant housewife of Sreekrishtapur village under sadar upazila.

The parishad also demanded security for the victim and her family members

Sources said being unable to violate the woman, Abdul Zabbar brought false allegation against her and beat her severely after hanging her from a tree.

Later, a brother of the indigenous woman rescued her and admitted her to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

A case was filed against the UP member and two others.

