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Inside today

New Column

'From LDC to NIC'
 by Shahed Latif, a
 former civil servant
 and an ESCAP special-
 ist on development
 issues. He discusses
 prospects for growth
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 this instalment.
 His column will
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International



Congress (I) MP,
 Mamata Banerjee has
 realised that the only
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Science & Tech-
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 Dr. Anwar Hossain
 writes on 'Tropical
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Sport



Graham Gooch guided
 England to a 115-run
 victory over West
 Indies in first Test
 at Leeds yesterday.
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Awami League's proposed constitutional bill likely to be dropped: Post of Vice-President to go

BNP may move amendment bill next week

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is expected to move a constitutional amendment bill in Parliament sometime next week to pave the way for a parliamentary form of government, it is reliably learnt.

Constitutional experts of the party are now working on a draft of the proposed bill. BNP leaders expect that the bill will be passed unanimously.

The amendment, if passed, will make the President a titular head of state to be elected

by the Parliament. The Prime Minister will be the chief executive and the cabinet will be accountable and responsible to the Parliament.

The proposed bill will delete a provision made in the Constitution through the Ninth Amendment which provides for making the Vice-President a running mate of the President. The post of Vice-President is likely to be abolished, sources say.

The BNP will retain the existing preamble of the Consti-

tution which expresses absolute faith in Allah, the basic state principles, where socialism has been interpreted as social and economic justice.

BNP leaders expect that the proposed amendment bill will be passed speedily, and within a week of its passage the Acting President will call a referendum to make the amendment effective.

Under the present Constitution any amendment of some basic provisions of the Consti-

Budget session today

Star Economic Report

Jatiya Sangsad goes into its budget session at 10 am today. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will place the national budget for 1991-92 before the Sangsad at 3 pm, according to official sources.

The budget session is the second session of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad.

Besides its normal business, the budget session will deal with the crucial issue of the form of government.

The supplementary budget for 1990-91 and finance bill for 1991-92 will also be placed before the house for its consideration.

Finance Minister's budget speech at the Sangsad will be broadcast live on Radio and Television.

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BNPPP supports parliamentary form

By Staff Correspondent

Members of the BNP Parliamentary Party were overwhelmingly in favour of a parliamentary form of government in a meeting of the BNPPP at the Sangsad Bhaban on Monday.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who is also the party chairman in her brief presidential address clearly indicated that the majority opinion would be honoured in taking a formal decision.

The ultimate decision will be taken by the BNP standing committee, the highest decision-making body of the party. Begum Zia said that the standing committee is expected to meet in two to three days.

BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam

Talukdar told newsmen that the discussion in the parliamentary party was 'smooth and bright'. Another influential leader of the party said that the progress of the parliamentary party meeting was 'speedier' than that of Sunday's meeting of the BNP central executive committee in which a majority stood for a parliamentary system.

BNP members of parliament looked jubilant at the conclusion of the 3-hour meeting at the Number One Committee Room of the Sangsad Bhaban. The MPs mostly favoured switchover to a parliamentary form because in their view this would enhance their dignity.

Begum Khaleda Zia had a

See Page 10 Col. 1



TAMING THE VIOLENT CAMPUS : Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia talking with APSU leaders who called on her at her Secretariat office on Monday. — PID photo

Terrorists cannot be anybody's friends, APSU leaders told Armed hoodlums to be dealt with lawfully, says PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia told student leaders on Monday that terrorists and armed hoodlums would be dealt with lawfully — however powerful they might be and whatever position they might hold in society or in a political party, reports BSS.

The terrorists cannot be anybody's friends", she told the leaders of All-Party Students Unity (APSU), who called on her at her Secretariat office and asked them not to give indulgence and shelter to them.

The student leaders held free and frank discussions with her regarding the situation obtaining in the country's educational institutions including Dhaka University.

Begum Zia asked them to help restore peace and order on the university campus by keeping it free from armed hoodlums and terrorists.

Education Minister Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury was also present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister asked the students to hand over the terrorists and those, who were spoiling the academic atmosphere, to law enforcing agencies.

Begum Zia told the students that concerned authority had already been instructed to arrest the killers of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon. "We cannot betray the blood of Dr Milon who had paved the way for

democracy." She said, adding "we cannot betray Dr Milon's blood by giving shelter to his killers".

The student leaders appreciated that this was for the first time a Prime Minister held free and frank discussions with the leaders of different student organisations on the problems of education and students.

The APSU leaders drew attention of the Prime Minister to the prevailing situation in different universities and other related matters.

Begum Zia gave them a patient hearing and assured them that she would take steps to solve their problems.

See Page 10 Col. 3

Joint meeting revives DU Education Atmosphere Council

By DU Correspondent

A joint meeting of the Dhaka University authorities and the leaders of 22 student organisations Monday revived the 'Dhaka University Education Atmosphere Council (DUEAC)' in order to improve the campus situation.

Headed by the Vice-Chancellor, the DUEAC was formed in 1987 with representatives of all the 22 student organisations and the university authorities including the pro-VC, provosts, the proctor and the assistant proctors and the registrar.

See Page 10 Col. 6

Budget to be placed before JS tomorrow Tk 500 cr new taxes likely

By Moazzem Hossain

New or additional taxes and other fiscal measures, to be proposed in the national budget for 1991-92, are likely to be at an aggregate level of over Taka 500 crore.

The Finance and Planning Minister will announce the national budget for 1991-92 before the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) on Wednesday. This will be the first budget framed by the democratic government installed in office after the free and fair elections held in February last.

Available indications suggested that some major changes would be proposed in the budget in areas of personal taxation.

The proposals would include "replacement of the fil-

ing threshold by an exemption limit", inclusion of employment-related allowances such as housing, transport and entertainment allowances in the income tax base and introduction of a realistic annual ceiling on the extent to which investments in approved assets can be reduced from the tax base.

Besides, a withholding tax in newer areas will be proposed for introduction.

In the case of direct taxes, the areas as well as the scope of tax withholding, to note, have been widened in recent years to cover manpower export, sale of goods by public auction, insurance commission, rental income from house-property, payment to

film actors and film actresses, travel agency commission, shipping agency commission, and interest on bank deposit.

A legislation has been made through the Finance Act 1990, providing tax withholding of interest on bank deposits.

Special exemptions for dividends are also likely to be eliminated. Tax holidays and other incentives, the benefits of which do not justify their fiscal costs, will be proposed to be eliminated in areas of company taxation.

The budget will place its major emphasis on efforts to improve tax administration and tax compliance for both direct and indirect taxation, authoritative sources said.

See Page 10 Col. 7

CU teachers threaten 'alternative varsity'

Chittagong University teachers declared today they would instal an 'alternative university' in the town if the government failed to resolve the aggravated campus crisis within three days, reports UNB.

Classes in the substitute university will be started from June 15. The teachers also announced after a 7-hour hunger strike demanding that the authorities take steps to free the besieged university from the clutches of Shibir.

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) called for a dawn-to-noon hartal in Chittagong North District today deman-

ding immediate purge of the Shibir "terrorists" who have paralysed the CU campus for long with nonstop strikes.

The Chittagong University Central Students Union (CUCSU) also warned at a rally the whole port city would be paralysed, if the government doesn't hasten to action to resolve the deadlock.

Meanwhile, the APSU and CUCSU supporters continued siege on the Chittagong University campus cutting essential supplies to the striking Shibir activists who remained incommunicado inside. The gherao began Sunday morning to counter Shibir action. The

Shibir has been staging marathon campus strikes for resignation of the VC. The ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal(JCD) did not take part in the gherao.

On the other hand, Shibir extended its strike for another 72 hours as its three-day campus shutdown ended today, further deepening the crisis.

Shibir supporters from outside also gheraoed the SP office in the town protesting the campus siege by APSU and CUCSU.

Campus sources said heavy contingents of armed police and BDR patrolled university gate number 1 and 2.

See Page 10 Col. 5

Cabinet informed of aid club meet outcome

A meeting of the Council of Ministers was held in Dhaka on Monday with the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, in the chair, reports BSS.

The council was informed of the outcome of the recent meeting of Bangladesh aid consortium which pledged 230 crore US dollars in aid, including project aid of more than 136 crore dollars.

The amount pledged is clearly a reflection of the support of the development partners to the newly established democratic government in the country, a government handout said.

The Council of Ministers was further informed that the development partners appreciated efforts made in

See Page 10 Col. 2

Adamjee mills reopen

By Staff Correspondent

The Adamjee Jute Mills reopened Monday morning, after two-days' closure following an agreement between the representatives of workers, management and district administration.

Workers assured the management of peace and discipline on the mill premises.

Meanwhile, the Narayanjan police has identified the mutilated body found near Gogargar bridge on Sunday. The body was of Abul Kashem, 35, of Noakhali, a worker of the Adamjee Jute Mills. This

See Page 10 Col. 4

Gas leak : 12 die in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, June 10: At least 12 people died on the spot today in poisonous gas from the engine room of a Japanese ship at Rainath shipyard at Sitalpur, about 30 km north-west from the city, police and eye witnesses said, reports UNB.

Preliminary report said victims were all local workers and officials of the shipyard engaged in repair work of the vessel Kotanga.

Of the bodies rescued till 9 pm today two were identified as Badrur Rahman (40) and

See Page 10 Col. 2

NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina returns

Opposition Leader in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina returned from Singapore late last night. Hasina went to Singapore on June 3 for treatment. She was suffering from "ulcerative colitis," reports UNB.

ML groups to unite

By Staff Correspondent

Four groups of Bangladesh Muslim League decided to unite and formed a 31-member convening committee with MA Hannan as its convener. The leaders of four groups met at the residence of MA Hannan Monday afternoon with GA Khan in the chair.

US offers arms to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, June 10: The United States has offered to supply Pakistan with conventional weapons used in the Gulf War in exchange for concessions on Islamabad's nuclear programme, news reports said Monday, reports AP.

Mandelas

JOHANNESBURG, June 10: The African National Congress (ANC) today denied press reports that Nelson Mandela's marriage was in trouble, reports Reuters.

Operation Sea Angels wound up

The US Joint Task Force has completed their relief and rescue operation code named "Operation Sea Angels" in the cyclone-affected coastal areas and offshore islands of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Brigadier M S A Bhuiyan, acting PSO to the Supreme Commander and Chief Coordinator of Prime Minister's Relief Activities Monitoring and Coordination Cell, bade farewell to the members of the US Task Force at Senakunja here Monday.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh

See Page 10 Col. 6

Support for BNP if it introduces parliamentary system: CPB

CPB General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik on Monday called upon the ruling party to implement the joint declaration of the three alliances for establishing parliamentary democracy in the country, reports UNB.

"We will support BNP if they switch over to the parliamentary system as per the joint declaration signed on November 19 last," he said.

See Page 10 Col. 6

Jamaat iterates call for introduction of parliamentary system

The Parliamentary Party of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh at a meeting on Monday reiterated its call to the ruling party to bring a constitutional amendment bill at the initial stage of the Budget session of the Sangsad for the introduction of parliamentary system of government, reports BSS.

Presided over by the Deputy Leader of Jamaat Parliamentary Party Maulana Md Abdus Sobhan, the meeting in a res-

See Page 10 Col. 5

At long last, Sonia lends Congress a helping hand

NEW DELHI, June 10: Mrs Sonia Gandhi has appealed to all Congressmen to work untidily in upholding the values of the party and towards fulfilling the dream of Rajiv Gandhi of a strong and united India, reports PTI.

In a letter to the party president, PV Narasimha Rao, thanking him for his words of solace following Gandhi's assassination, Sonia Gandhi said she hoped that her husband's 'ultimate sacrifice' for his beloved country would be a source of great strength to

each Congressman and woman. "Let it infuse each one of them with greater determination to work untidily in upholding the values of the Congress party so dear to him", she said in her letter, a copy of which was released to the press today.

Sonia Gandhi told Rao that she and her children were overwhelmed by the depth of his concern and by the love and affection shown to them.

A report from Patna said: The BJP leader, AB Vajpayee, today predicted a split in the

Congress (I) and Janata Dal after the Lok Sabha polls.

Talking to newsmen here at the end of his two-day poll campaign, he said the need of the hour was to have a government capable of tackling terrorism as the country was passing through its worst phase of instability after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi.

"Only the BJP can provide such a government," he said and added sarcastically that the AICC chief, PV Narasimha Rao and the JD leader VP Singh, were two facets of the

same coin — the difference was only of PV And VP (their initials).

Vajpayee said the JD and the Congress (I) played narrow politics to keep their vote bank intact and in the process jeopardised the nation.

To a question, Vajpayee said the leader of the BJP parliamentary party would be chosen democratically and ruled out any groupism inside the party.

The BJP leader suggested that the assistance of army should be taken if necessary in conducting the Lok Sabha polls

in Bihar. This would instill a sense of confidence among the voters, he said.

Vajpayee also said that the Chief Election Commissioner, TN Seshan should have consulted leaders of different political parties before extending the date of polls by such a long period, which, he said only resulted in impeding the tempo of the electioneering.

Meanwhile, the BJP has withdrawn their candidates from the two Lok Sabha seats in Tripura in protest against the "terrorism created by the

Congress (I)", according to Kabintra Purkayasta, secretary, north east state co-ordination council of the party.

The Congress (I) today said the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi was a clear case of a 'serious security lapse'.

The AICC-1 spokesman, Pranab Mukherjee, told reporters here the very fact of appointment of a commission of enquiry into the security lapses at Sriperumpudur means there was a security