

US restriction downs shrimp price

Price of Bangladesh shrimp suddenly dropped in the international market by about 15 per cent over the last week following US decision to restrict entry of the item in the wake of recent cyclone.

Trading circle told UNB on Monday Japan and almost all European buyers were taking advantage of the US decision and forced down the price.

The United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) had been inspecting all consignments of shrimp shipped from Bangladesh after May 14 fearing contamination by the disaster.

The US step restricting entry of Bangladeshi shrimp came on recommendation from its National Fisheries Institute. The US media reported cholera might break out in cyclone-hit coastal Bangladesh contaminating frozen food.

Officials and traders said the US buyers are now pressing Bangladesh shrimp exporters to accept LCs with provision of payment after inspection. Exporters were used to get their bill immediately after shipment.

The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) at an emergency meeting with the Frozen Food Exporters Association (Monday) decided that the government will soon discuss the matter with the USFDA through Bangladesh Embassy in Washington.

Bangladesh exports shrimp worth about 150 million US dollars annually. Japan and the United States buy more than 80 per cent of the total exports.

Self-reliance main objectives, says Khaleida

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia on Monday said the objectives of the BNP government were to attain self-reliance by increasing production and arrange equitable distribution of wealth and thus make the hard-earned independence meaningful, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the eighth national conference of the Institute of Diploma Engineers at Shishu Academy, Begum Zia said "We want to stand on our own feet with the support of our vast manpower without always depending on foreign aid."

Presided over by Shaifuddin Sarkar, President of IDE, Bangladesh, the inaugural function was also addressed by Rafiqul Islam Bhuiya, Vice-President, and Tasadduk Hossain, General Secretary of the IDE.

Begum Zia said with the use of appropriate technology many of the problems could be solved and the country could march ahead to progress and prosperity.

She said her government wanted to create job opportunities for the unemployed youths in the rural areas by setting up small-scale industries. This would also help the womenfolk to be associated with the national development activities, she added.

Different organs of the IDE, donated cheques to Prime Minister's Relief Fund at the function.

The members of the IDE later brought out a silent procession from the Shishu Academy in memory of the victims of the cyclone.

BNPPP

From Page 1 Col. 3 meeting with senior party leaders at her Sangsad Bhaban Chamber immediately after the parliamentary party meeting.

She told waiting newsmen that her party's decision would be made public very soon because "there is nothing to hide". Her party would have talks with all parties before taking an initiative.

Party Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar said a bill would be presented before parliament during the ensuing session. A total of 25 MPs addressed the BNPPP meeting, he said.

According to an insider Begum Khaleida Zia in her brief speech said that the meeting was part of a process of taking decisions by gathering opinions of party leaders and workers.

As to the question whether BNP could opt for a parliamentary form without changing the party constitution, a party leader and constitutional expert said that the standing committee was competent to amend the constitution subject to approval by the party council.

He pointed out that such an amendment was effected in 1981 to enable Acting President Justice Sattar, who was also the acting chairman of the BNP to discharge the powers and functions of the party chairman following the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman.

Another insider said that none spoke against the parliamentary form in Sunday's meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party.

Some party stalwarts who had earlier openly advocated the continuation of the presidential form remained silent, a few of them even left the meeting before it concluded at about 7.30 pm.

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A joint meeting of the leaders of divided APSU took place on Monday at the official residence of Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Moniruzzaman Mia, whose earlier initiatives failed more than once. The outcome of the meeting is reported to be a success. — Star photo

PM, APSU leaders

From Page 1 Col. 7 Begum Khaleida Zia asked the students to concentrate on education and become worthy citizens of the country to take its leadership in future.

Among others, Messrs Faisal Hakim, President, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Nur Ahmed Bakul, President, Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree, Moshrefa Mishu, Convener, Chhatra Oikya Forum, Jahangir Sattar Tinku, President, Jatiya Chhatra League, Nazmul Huq Pradhan, President, Bangladesh Chhatra League, S M Kamal Hossain, General Secretary, Jatiya Chhatra League, Asim Kumar Ukil, General Secretary, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Nasir-Uddoza, General Secretary, Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Shaif Ahmed, General Secretary, Bangladesh Chhatra League, spoke on the occasion.

Khairul Kabir Khokan, General Secretary, DUCSU, Mohammad Nazimuddin Alam, Assistant General Secretary, DUCSU, Mohammad Shah Alam, President, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Khandakar Lutfar Rahman, President, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Salahuddin Tarun, General Secretary, Ganotantrik Chhatra League, Md Abu Aslam Mintu, General Secretary, Bangladesh Chhatra Samity, Abdus Sattar Khan, President, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Ataur Rahman Ata, Organising Secretary, Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree, S M Zahid Reza, Convener, Jatiya Chhatra Front, Badrul Alam, Central Member, Chhatra Oikya Forum, Jayed Iqbal Khan, General Secretary, Chhatra Oikya Forum, Aminul Islam, President, Bangladesh Chhatra Samity, A Awal, Presi-

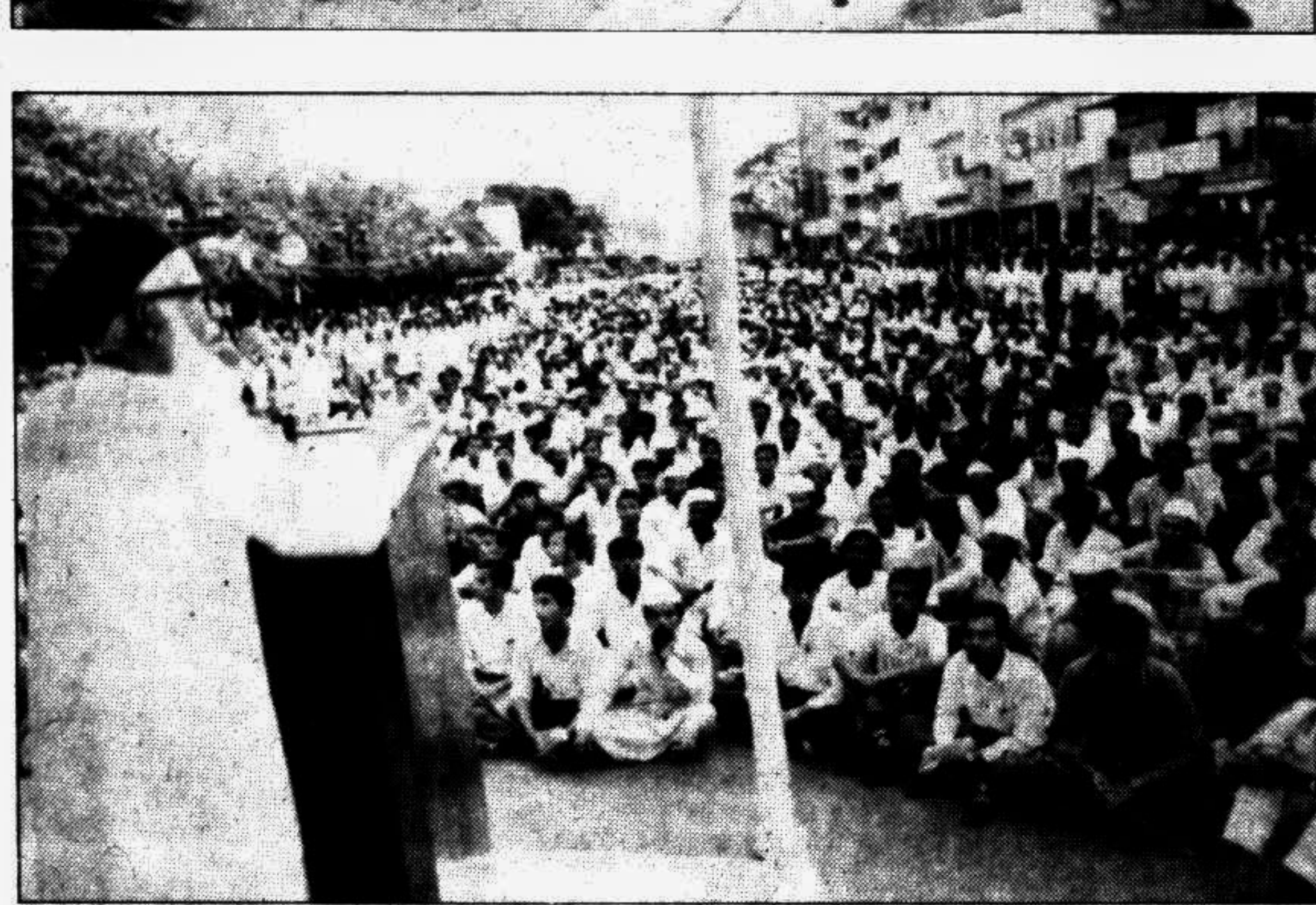
dent, Chhatra Oikya Forum, Rezaul Karim Shilpi, General Secretary Jatiya Chhatra Dal, Rakezzaman Ratan, General Secretary, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Asadur Rahman Asad, General Secretary, Chhatra League (Lutfar-Asad), Mosharrif Hossain, Convener, Bangladesh Chhatra Mukti, Raju Ahmed, Acting Convener, Ganotantrik Chhatra Kendra, Syed Jahangir, General Secretary, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Saifuddin Ahmed Moni, President, Ganotantrik Chhatra League and Belal Chowdhury, President, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front were present on the occasion.

Adamjee raised the death toll from the clashes to four. The mill was closed since die on Saturday following clashes between rival groups of workers that left at least four people dead and over 200 injured.

According to a Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation official, production resumed at six in the morning and at 11am attendance was 88 per cent. Arrear wages except for the two closed days were paid. The workers decided to donate Taka 5 each towards a fund for the injured workers.

Our Narayanjanj Correspondent adds: All workers, employees and officials of the mills were asked to produce identity cards while entering the mills. No outsiders was allowed to enter the premises during the day, mill sources said.

BDR and additional police forces remained on the premises.



Jamaat leader Abbas Ali Khan (above) and CPB leader Saifuddin Ahmed Manik (below) addressing two public meetings in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Place welfare budget: Abbas

The acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Abbas Ali Khan, on Monday called upon the government to place a welfare-oriented budget, reports BSS.

Addressing a rally at the northern gate of the Baitul Mokarram Mosque here, Khan reminded the government to consider the price spiral of the essentials while placing the national budget for the fiscal 1991-92.

Menon for pre-fourth amendment system

JHENNAIDAH, June 10: Workers' Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon MP today urged Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia to move the constitutional amendment bill immediately to restore parliamentary democracy, reports UNB.

The BAC earlier instituted a case with Motijheel thana against the Chowdhury, his wife and two sons,

Alternative university

From Page 1 Col. 7 Communications to and from the university were also reported cut off.

About 400 Shibir activists are staying inside the campus. About 100 teachers and 1,000 employees were said to be inside the campus with their families.

Today was the third day of the 72-hour strike called by Islamic Chhatra Shibir-supported alliances, Sangrami Chhatra Oikya and Sammlita Chhatra Oikya Paribad.

The Shibirites are demanding resignation of VC Prof Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin, lifting expulsion order on five students and show-cause notice on 63 others.

It's for the 10th day the varsity is passing through a series of strikes since June 1. The Vice-Chancellor has been staying outside the campus for the last 10 days.

Eighty CU teachers, opposing Shibir excesses, staged a 10 am - 5 pm token hunger strike at Dr. Milon Square in the town, demanding that the government immediately intervene to free the campus from violence and reopen the besieged university.

CUCSU held a meeting at the gate No 1 in the afternoon, where its leaders sounded warning of paralysing entire Chittagong.

CUCSU VP Azimuddin and GS Nazimuddin were among those addressed the rally.

Related story on Page 2

Jamaat

From Page 1 Col. 4 lution said though autocracy had fallen the system created by autocracy was still in vogue in the country.

Convened by the Vice-Chancellor, the meeting was attended by the leaders of all the APSU components. Held at the VC's official residence in the evening, the meeting was also attended by the Pro-VC, provosts, the proctor and the assistant proctors on behalf of the DU authorities. Student leaders including Khairul Kabir Khokan, Najimuddin Alam, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary of DUCSU and leaders of JCD, Shahe Alam of BCL(S-A), Nazmul Huq Prodhan, President of JSD (Inu)-backed BCL(N-S), Nur Ahmed Bakul of Chhatra Maitree, joined the meeting.

A meeting of the DUEAC will be held soon, the meeting decided.

CPB

From Page 1 Col. 3 Addressing a public meeting at Purana Paltan, the speakers stressed the need for immediate implementation of the joint declaration for doing away with dyarchy in the country.

Chaired by Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, the meeting was also addressed by Shamsuddoha, Leader of the Parliamentary Party of CPB, Mujahedul Islam Selim, General Secretary of Khet Majoor Samity, Nurul Islam Nahid, Secretary of the Central Committee, and Mantruzzaman, General Secretary of the City Committee.

"The joint declaration belongs to the people and we are committed to implement it," Manik said.

He demanded autonomy for radio and television and restoration of fundamental rights of the people.

He cautioned BNP for partisan attitudes and demanded elected Mayors of the city corporations.

Manik said the coming budget should be a "people's budget unlike the Ershad budget."

He criticised the government for its failure in forming an all-party relief committee and said arrival of US Task Force after several days of cyclone was "mysterious".

Shamsuddoha said there is no alternative to the joint declaration for institutionalising democracy in the country.

The meeting decided to observe 17 June as Demand Day "for implementing the joint declaration."

Sea Angels

From Page 1 Col. 2 desh William B. Milam and Commander of the Joint Task Force Major General Henry Stackpole were present.

A group of the Task Force members left for home earlier and the rest are scheduled to leave on June 12.

Speaking on the occasion, the Acting PSO said despite various constraints they flew a total of 2526 sorties and lifted 5521 tonnes of relief materials

Joint meeting revives DU Atmosphere Council

From Page 1 Col. 8 Following conflicts among the student bodies, the DUEAC later became inactive.

Monday's joint meeting, chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof M Moniruzzaman Mia, elaborately discussed the prevailing campus crisis and agreed that nobody would oppose any actions to be taken by the DU authorities or the law enforcing agencies for improvement of the campus situation.

If any of the student organisations has any objection to the steps by the DU authorities, it must raise it for discussion in a meeting of the DUEAC, the meeting decided.

Regarding return of the students who had left the residential halls following recent violent incidents, the meeting failed to reach any consensus. The student leaders differed over the return of those students who were allegedly involved in the killing of the Jahriul Huq Hall Students Union Vice-President and Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon. The issue was later left for further discussion in the DUEAC meeting.

All the student leaders also agreed not to provide shelter to any terrorist in their respective organisations.

Revival of the DUEAC indicates a greater unity of the student organisations and the authorities to resolve the on-going campus crisis following rivalry between BNP-backed Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Awami League-supported Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-A).

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU), comprising 22 student organisations, was defunct recently following a series of clashes between JCD and BCL (S-A) in Dhaka University and elsewhere in the country.

Convened by the Vice-Chancellor, the meeting was attended by the leaders of all the APSU components. Held at the VC's official residence in the evening, the meeting was also attended by the Pro-VC, provosts, the proctor and the assistant proctors on behalf of the DU authorities. Student leaders including Khairul Kabir Khokan, Najimuddin Alam, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary of DUCSU and leaders of JCD, Shahe Alam of BCL(S-A), Nazmul Huq Prodhan, President of JSD (Inu)-backed BCL(N-S), Nur Ahmed Bakul of Chhatra Maitree, joined the meeting.

A meeting of the DUEAC will be held soon, the meeting decided.

The bill may thus seek to amend Article 70 of the Constitution providing that MPs belonging to a party can not only vote against it, but also cannot form rival party groups. Sources say even restrictions on voting of coalition partners are also being contemplated. Provisions may be made so that coalition partners would have to vote for the government till the expiry of the full term of the Parliament.

Again, the provision of adoption of no confidence motions may be so defined that such a motion should come through a specific resolution stating the reasons. Mere adoption of an ordinary resolution moved by an opposition bench member may not be treated as a no confidence

While the Awami League and its allies openly advocated for a parliamentary form of government, BNP leaders kept their mouths shut. They only said that the issue would be resolved in the Parliament.

Also see an editorial

Tk 500cr new taxes

From Page 1 Col. 7

The government has already created six special tribunals to accelerate the processing of income tax proposals. An extensive computerisation programme is also being implemented in this context to improve tax administration.

Available indications further suggested that the government would introduce revenue measures to compensate for the decision to eliminate land development tax on agricultural land to about eight acres.

Special measures will be taken to strengthen revenue collection at the local government level.

A key structural reform under the national budget for 1991-92 will be the introduction of the Value-Added Tax (VAT). This tax will be levied at a single rate at the manufacturing -cum-import stage. Higher import duty rates on goods such as alcohol, tobacco, petroleum products and luxury items will be proposed to be largely replaced by trade-neutral supplementary excise duties.

Concessions in import duty and tax rates which "discriminate by type of importer or user" will be eliminated in a phased basis, according to available indicators.

A further simplification of the tariff structure will be proposed under the budget. The maximum tariff rate, other than that for specified luxury

The Midnight File

Violence continues in Algeria

ALGIERS, June 10: Political violence, including sabotage, has persisted despite calls by Islamic fundamentalist leaders for an end to protest that resulted in a state of siege, authorities said Monday. Security officials said at least 34 people had been arrested since Saturday in various incidents of unrest, including two assaults by a crowd of 600 people on an Algiers police station where two Islamic militants were jailed, reports AP.

Bush-Gorbachev summit unlikely

WASHINGTON, June 10: George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev are not likely to hold their summit until sometime after the mid-July economic summit of the seven major industrialised nations in London, the White House said Monday. Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said he could not rule out the possibility that a superpower summit could be held before then, reports AP.

Iraqis allowed to perform Haj

NICOSIA, June 10: Iraq said today that Saudi Arabia, a Gulf war enemy, had agreed to let Iraqis join the annual pilgrimage to Mecca this month. The pilgrimage will travel by road, Iraqi news quoting an official of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. A private company has been set up to provide transport and other services, reports Reuter.

20 hurt as launch owners assault bus passengers

ARICHA (Manikganj), June 10: At least 20 people were injured when motor launch owners and owners, demanding higher fare, assaulted inter-city coach passengers and supervisors here today, witnesses said, reports UNB.

They said the launch workers and owners carried on their assault twice between 11 am to 1 pm in a bid to stop bus passengers and supervisors from using BIWTC ferry instead of motor launches.

Eight injured people were admitted to Goalundo Hospital across the river.

Inter-city buses usually hire motor launches to ferry their passengers between Aricha and Daulatdia.

But trouble began this morning when motor launch owners abruptly demanded higher fare from the buses. They demanded Tk 400 instead of the existing Tk 300 for carrying passengers of each bus.

The bus supervisors refused their demand of higher fare and instead opted for BIWTC ferry, which infuriated the launch owners and workers leading to the assault, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, transport owners in a statement in the afternoon demanded withdrawal of the launch owners' demand for higher fare.

Amendment bill

From Page 1 Col. 4 tion passed by a two-thirds majority should be approved through a referendum.

The proposed bill will also create a transitional provision under Article 150 of the Constitution to validate the appointment of the Acting President and his actions under special circumstances, and to allow him to go back to the Supreme Court Bench as Chief Justice. This provision will be to ensure that none can challenge the appointment of the caretaker government and the actions taken by it to hold a free and fair election.

The BNP will try to remove all possible factors that may contribute to instability under a parliamentary form, said a constitutional expert of the party.

The bill may thus seek to amend Article 70 of the Constitution providing that MPs belonging to a party can not only vote against it, but also cannot form rival party groups. Sources say even restrictions on voting of coalition partners are also being contemplated. Provisions may be made so that coalition partners would have to vote for the government till the expiry of the full term of the Parliament.

Again, the provision of adoption of no confidence motions may be so defined that such a motion should come through a specific resolution stating the reasons. Mere adoption of an ordinary resolution moved by an opposition bench member may not be treated as a no confidence

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Also see an editorial

Tk 500cr new taxes

From Page 1 Col. 7 goods, is likely to be reduced to 75 per cent in 1991-92.

The government will put in place a mechanism for better monitoring of trade flows through the appointment of international agents to provide pre-shipment inspection and offshore duty assessment for imports, the sources said.

Retail petroleum prices will continue to be kept above the world oil price. Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) will make monthly profit transfers to the government.

A restructuring programme for Bangladesh Railway will be initiated to reduce losses. The loss of the railways would be about Taka 170 crore in 1990-91.

A new system will be introduced to monitor the payment of debt service liabilities by autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies.

Self-financed projects will be approved only for agencies that do not have arrears in their debt service payments.

Efforts will be intensified in 1991-92 to reduce the financial burden of the public enterprises and improve their efficiency.

A regular evaluation of tariff levels, accounts receivable, revenue collection performance, interagency arrears (including those to and from the government), and appropriate action will be used by the government as a condition for the approval of new investments, the sources said.