

## EC assistance for govt priority areas

BRUSSELS, June 7: The European Community's assistance to Bangladesh will be concentrated and strengthened in priority areas, determined by the democratically elected new government, reports BSS.

This was stated by the representative of the European Community at a seminar, organised by the European Institute for South and South East Asian studies on 'prospect for cooperation between the European Community and Bangladesh' here Thursday.

The EC representative said its development cooperation policy favours channelling of more development inputs to the democratic countries. He said the EC has taken initiative to strengthen assistance to cyclone protection and flood control projects in Bangladesh. EC's development assistance to Bangladesh has been significantly growing over the last few years, he added.

In a message to the seminar Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia assured the seminar that the new democratic government was strongly committed to uphold democratic pluralism and carry it forward from strength to strength.

Begum Zia called for support from development partners in bringing about economic progress. She lauded the tremendous support, given by EEC in providing relief and succour to the cyclone victims of Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister said the success of the government to meet the challenge of economic development would be

the success of democracy at work.

She expressed the hope that her government would receive EEC's enthusiastic cooperation and sincere support in this endeavour.

The seminar was attended by representatives of the European Parliamentary, European Commission, embassies of South and South East Asian countries, business community and trade organisations.

speaking at the seminar, Tomlinson MP, who visited Bangladesh as an election observer from European Parliament, said the election in Bangladesh was impartial and fair by any standard.

He praised the role of the Election Commission, the student community and the people of Bangladesh for holding the election in a most fair and impartial manner. He expressed great optimism that democracy in Bangladesh will grow from strength to strength.

Tomlinson called upon the European Community to strengthen their assistance and support to the democratic government in their efforts for rapid economic progress.

Participating in the seminar, Prof Schandel of Ensmas University touched on the problems of social and economic development in Bangladesh and emphasised the importance of democratic pluralism for solution of inherent social and economic problems of a country like Bangladesh.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia met the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at his official residence on Friday evening. — PID photo

## Yugoslav republics reach accord

SARAJEVO, June 7: A Yugoslav leader said the six republics reached a compromise in the quarrel over future power sharing arrangements which has pushed the country close to civil war during the past three months, reports Reuter.

It was the most hopeful sign in several weeks that Yugoslavia might overcome a crisis which has claimed at least 20 lives in Serb-Croat ethnic clashes this year and

left the federation without a President since May 15.

The six Presidents accepted a Bosnian-Macedonian proposal for a loose federation of sovereign republics as a basis for further talks, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said.

The talks between Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina in Bosnia's capital Sarajevo were the sixth summit on the country's future in

three months.

For once the largest republic Serbia, which wants a centrally-ruled federation, sounded an upbeat note signalling it may eventually reach an accord with the independence-minded northern republics of Croatia and Slovenia.

Croatia and Slovenia favour a loose alliance of sovereign states and which had threatened to secede this month if they did not get it.

## DU VC holds joint meet of JCD, BCL leaders

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of rival student organisations, Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (S-A), on Friday urged the Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor, Prof Moniruzzaman Miah to convene a joint meeting of all the components of now-defunct All-Party Students Unity (APSU) to find out a solution of the campus crisis.

The student leaders made the request when the Vice-Chancellor called them to a meeting at his official residence at 8pm.

The Vice-Chancellor agreed to the proposal and told the student leaders the date of the proposed meeting would be fixed today.

After the half-an-hour discussion with the VC both the student groups agreed that immediate steps should be taken to improve the tense situation. They also assured the VC of their all-out cooperation to restore normalcy in the campus.

DUCSU General Secretary and JCD Joint Convener Khairul Kabir Khokan, Habibun Nabi Sohel and Ali Akkas Nadim comprised the JCD delegation while the Chhatra League (S-A) team included its President Shahe Alam, General Secretary Ashim Kumar Ukil and Golam Mostafa Sujon.

## New Pourashava

JHENAI DAH, June 7: A new Pourashava was opened at Kaliganj upazila of the district on Thursday. The new Pourashava formed with Kaliganj, Sibnagar and Niamatpur unions of the upazila was formally opened.



Bodies of six people killed in a road accident at Board Bazar near Tongi on Thursday night. — Star photo

## 6 killed as truck falls into ditch

By Staff Correspondent

Six people were killed on the spot and about 15 others injured, two of them seriously, when a truck skidded off the road and fell into a ditch at Board Bazar near Tongi on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway late Thursday night.

According to Gazipur police, two of the victims were identified as Abdul Kader (35) and Shaharuddin (25), son of Moshuddin of Baksiganj under Jamalpur district. All the bodies were sent to Gazipur sadar hospital for autopsy.

Of the injured, six were rushed to Tongi hospital from where two seriously wounded persons were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Those who received minor injuries were given first aid at different clinics at Tongi. Six of the injured people were identified as Nurul Islam, Ismail, Jaimul Huq, Azimuddin, Fakir Ahmed and Yousuf Ali.

Police said, the Jamalpur-bound truck from Pagla (Narayanganj) was carrying passengers in addition to its

loads of CI sheets and cement. The vehicle lost its control and met the accident at around 11 pm. Gazipur police and firemen from Gazipur and Tongi units rushed to the spot and rescued the victims. The ill-fated truck was not salvaged till Friday night. Police were guarding the area.

The driver and his assistants have been absconding since the accident.

## Saudi team

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Vice-Chairman of the Saudi Fund for Development Dr. Abdul Aziz Mohammad Al-Turki was received at the Zia International Airport by the ERD Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury.

Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdul Latif Abdullah Al-Maimanee was present at the airport.

The visit came as a follow up of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's recent trip to the kingdom.

The delegation, which will stay here for a week, is likely to call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman and State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan.

Besides, it will also hold meetings with the ERD Secretary and other concerned officials on utilisation of Saudi assistance to rehabilitation programme in the cyclone-battered coastal areas.

## SKOP threatens strike in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, June 7: Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) here, Friday called a dawn to noon strike on June 12 as the local administration failed to reopen the Sirajganj Spinning and Cotton Mills within the stipulated time.

Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party, had not been seen since he checked out of his Baghdad hotel on May 24. Some reports said he had gone to Iraqi Kurdistan, others that he was still negotiating in Baghdad.

Barzani said the two sides were still at odds over the borders of a Kurdish autonomous region.

"But we have found a way to solve the problem. We shall agree on Kirkuk," he added. The Kurds have said they want oil-rich Kirkuk province, included in the region but government officials oppose this. More than two million Kurds who fled their homes during an abortive uprising in March are reluctant to go home until Barzani reaches an agreement.

The refugees are staying in Iranian territory still held by Kurdish Peshmerga guerrillas

and in a "safe haven" set up by allied troops along the Iraqi-Turkish border.

Meanwhile, another Kurdish rebel leader Jalal Talabani has voted his community's determination to pursue negotiations with the Iraqi authorities for an autonomous state despite "major differences" over the status of key towns.

He made the remarks in a wide-ranging interview Thursday with Agence France-press in Kalarjolin town in Iraqi Kurdistan, 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Suleimaniyah near the border with Iran.

"We are ready to negotiate for years and years. We will never take the initiative in

## Rehan expelled

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Rehan, also Vice-President of the federation, was accused of organising Thursday's attack on Adamjee Workers and other activities against the interest of the workers.

Meanwhile, Nurul Islam, 30, another worker of Adamjee died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital Friday. He was admitted there with serious head injury after Thursday's violent clash between two groups of workers at the Adamjee Jute Mills.

Two workers were killed and about two hundred others injured during the clash. The number of injured workers rose to about two hundred Friday when more of the injured, trapped inside the mill area came out after police opened the Mill gates. The gates were closed by a group of workers.

Nine seriously injured workers were admitted to the DMCH Thursday while the rest were treated at different hospitals and clinics in Narayanganj Thursday and Friday.

Tense situation was prevailing at Adamjeenagar yesterday. Rival groups of workers held rallies at the mill premises and offered gayebana janaja for those killed in the clash.

A workers meeting, organised by Adamjee Patkal Sramik Karmachari Union (CBA), was held at Dhaka Bazu at the mill premises yesterday.

The meeting, presided over by Shafulah Shaif, General Secretary of the union, bitterly criticised the union President Rehan for his involvement in the 'terrorist activities' at the mill area. The speakers held

Rehan responsible for the attack on workers and alleged that Rehan himself led the attack. The speakers alleged that Rehan hired hooligans from outside who were armed with hand bombs, firearms and lethal weapons.

Jatiya Sramik Federation, a front organisation of the Workers Party of Bangladesh, with which the CBA is affiliated, has also condemned the activities of Rehan. A meeting of the federation held with its President Abul Bashar in chair yesterday reviewed the situation at Adamjee and demanded adequate measure from the authorities to maintain law and order in the area.

Siddique Sardar, the President of Adamjee Jute Mill Sramik Union, also accused Rehan for Thursday's incident. At a meeting organised by his union, Siddique Sardar and other speakers alleged that Rehan group removed bodies of some workers from the mill who were killed during their attack.

Rehanuddin Rehan, the president of the CBA, also held a meeting in the mill area with his supporters.

Our Narayanganj correspondent reports: A large contingent of police was deployed in Adamjeenagar yesterday and a tense situation was prevailing there.

Siddique Sardar and Rehanuddin filed separate cases with Siddhirganj police station in connection with Thursday's incident. Police could not yet arrest anybody in connection with the incident.

## Kurds, Baghdad close to accord

BAGHDAD, June 7: Kurdish rebel leader Massoud Barzani, appearing in public for the first time in almost two weeks, said last night that he was close to agreement with the Baghdad government on Kurdish autonomy, reports Reuter.

"We are near to reaching an agreement .... We expect to do so by June 15 or 16, may be even the 20th," he told reporters.

Barzani, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party, had not been seen since he checked out of his Baghdad hotel on May 24. Some reports said he had gone to Iraqi Kurdistan, others that he was still negotiating in Baghdad.

The refugees are staying in Iranian territory still held by Kurdish Peshmerga guerrillas

and in a "safe haven" set up by allied troops along the Iraqi-Turkish border.

Meanwhile, another Kurdish rebel leader Jalal Talabani has voted his community's determination to pursue negotiations with the Iraqi authorities for an autonomous state despite "major differences" over the status of key towns.

He made the remarks in a wide-ranging interview Thursday with Agence France-press in Kalarjolin town in Iraqi Kurdistan, 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Suleimaniyah near the border with Iran.

"We are ready to negotiate for years and years. We will never take the initiative in

breaking the negotiations or in resuming the war," the head of the powerful Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said.

PUK was one of the key Kurdish groups involved in a bloody anti-government rebellion in March which was smashed by the Iraqi government, forcing hundreds of thousands of Kurds to flee to neighbouring Iran and Turkey.

Baghdad is arguing that the border towns with Iran are strategically important for Iraq's national security and refuses to compromise on Kirkuk so as to prevent the "economic partition" of the country.

## The Midnight File

### Windies 166 for 8 at day's close

LEEDS, England, June 7: West Indies' captain Viv Richards defied England with an unbeaten 73 Friday as the rest of his team floundered to 166 for eight on the second day of the first Test at Headingley. After bowling England out for a modest 196, the West Indians struggled against some accurate bowling and brilliant fielding, notably by debutant Mark Ramprakash, who produced a brilliant diving catch to remove opener Phil Simmons, who scored 38. He swooped to run out Carl Hooper without scoring, and took another catch to dismiss Jeffrey Dujon also for no score, reports AP (See also page 7).

### Baker, Bessmertnykh meet

GENEVA, June 7: US Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh met here today for talks aimed at paving the way for a U S-Soviet summit, reports AFP.

### China to attend ME arms talks

WASHINGTON, June 7: China has accepted an invitation from President George Bush to attend a July conference of the world's major powers that would discuss limiting arms sales to the Middle East, the White House said Friday, reports AP.

## Shekhar under fire for gold deal

JHANSHPUR, (Bihar) June 7: Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar today denied the government had sold 20 tonnes of gold abroad and said it had only been mortgaged, report agencies.

Addressing an election meeting here Shekhar said the government was compelled to take this measure as the previous governments had sunk the country to a staggering foreign debt.

The three major parties fighting for power in elections due to be largely over by June 15 have lambasted the deal, under which India can buy the gold back at the world price plus interest on the 200 million dollars it raised.

In New Delhi Indian Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha left his sick bed today to defend the sale abroad of nearly 20 tonnes of confiscated gold which has unleashed a political storm in the middle of an election campaign.

The deal to shore up fast diminishing Foreign exchange reserves and stave off default on short-term debt, struck a deep emotional core in India, where gold is a vitally important commodity.

"I am not feeling apologetic about it because the alternative was even more horrible, should a caretaker government have allowed the government go into default?" said Sinha, who recently went to hospital with chest pains.

"I decided, against the advice of doctors that I shouldn't be moving about, that I should come out and ensure that the

credit-rating of India is not damaged. The most important matter is confidence," Sinha said.

Sinha said he was shocked by the criticism and accused rival politicians of using the issue for electoral gains.

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The key issue, he said, was preserving India's record of not defaulting on its foreign debts of at least 70 billion dollars.

And anyway it was not the country's official reserves, he added. It was just some of the vast quantities of gold confiscated from people who tried to smuggle it into India, where gold sells at well above world prices.

"There's nothing sacrosanct about this," Sinha said.

### India rejects

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proliferation," the Foreign Minister said in Beijing.

The United States and the Soviet Union are yet to respond to Islamabad's initiative.

"Pakistan has been moving a resolution on a nuclear weapons-free South Asia for the past several years while at the same time relentlessly pursuing its clandestine nuclear weapons programme," the Indian spokesman said.

He termed Sharif's proposals a Pakistani ploy for diverting international pressure from its nuclear weapons programme.

See also an editorial

## Cup of joy

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Alamgir and the veteran Yousuf Alamgir wanting for pace. But thankfully for the reigning NBL league champions their skipper Rupu had a better match than he did in the semifinal against East Bengal Club last Tuesday. Abahani's striking duo of Aslam and Rumi posed little threat for Kaiser Hamid, Imtiaz Sultan Johnny and Jewel Rana in the Mohammedan defence. Also, goalkeeper Kanan was hardly called upon to make too many saves.

On the contrary, Abahani survived a few close calls, especially in the first half when there were some lack of understanding between the defenders especially goalle Mohsin and central defender Munna. Once, in the 27th minute an attempted backpass from Munna to Mohsin nearly spelt doom for the Dhanmandi side who took the field in bright yellow shirts and shorts instead of their trademark sky blue. Nakib, who scored Mohammedans' winner against Mohun Bagan in Wednesday's semifinal, was a shade slow in reaching the ball.

Two minutes later Munna received the yellow card from referee Nazir Hossain for a hard tackle on Mamoon.

Five minutes after the breather Masud Rana saved the situation for Abahani when he made a brilliant clearance, taking the ball away from a hesitant feet deep inside the box after Mamoon and Zakir had laid it on.

In the 63rd minute an attempted cross from the right by Mamoon hit the top of the Abahani crosspiece and went out.

In the 70th minute Roxy failed to take a shot from in front of the Abahani goalmouth with Alamgir, Masud Rana and Mohsin at his mercy. Roxy, who had played so well against Mohun Bagan, was booked in the 85th minute for a foul on Ghaus. Soon afterwards he was substituted by Masud Ali. Mustakim was the other MSC player booked on the day.

Abahani's only positive chance came in the 78th minute when Masud Rana laid on a perfect through ball, Aslam, having only to beat the goale, failed to control the ball and was soon dispossessed just inside the box.

Later in the game Masud Rana, one of the most promising players to have emerged over the past couple of years, suffered a serious knock and limped his way around until the final whistle.

Ghaus had a brilliant match for Abahani. He made a few dazzling, dribbling runs through the Mohammedan defence that earned warm applause from the Abahani section of the stands. Perhaps it was ordained that Ghaus would garner all the glory in an otherwise lacklustre game.

In the 19th minute of extra time a throw taken by Alamgir from the right flank sailed right across the Mohammedan goal. Several heads went up for the ball. Aslam managed a touch with the back of his head only to set it up perfectly for Ghaus and the youngster made no mistake, firmly controlling the nod to steer the ball inside the Mohammedan net (1-0).

From then, until the final whistle, as Mohammedans sought the equaliser in vain Abahani were content to adopt time wasting tactics with long clearances that frequently sent the ball out of play.

While Mohammedans brought on their second sub Mustakim for a tired Zakir Abahani took off an off colour Rumi for Riaz.

Prime Minister Begum Zia, who along with Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas watched the match, gave away the trophies after the game.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka and NSC chief Maj. General Mahbubur Rahman, along with other high BFF officials, were also present.

In fine, in a game that either side could have won, Abahani triumphed because they got the goal and Mohammedans didn't. That's what it's all about. Football means goals and the side that scores wins.

Teams

Abahani KC: Mohsin, Masud Rana, Munna Sr, Rehan, Barun, Yusuf, Rupu, Alamgir, Aslam, Rumi (Riaz) and Ghaus.

Mohammedan SC: Kanan, Abul, Kaiser, Jewel Rana, Johnny, Sabbir, Tito, Roxy(Masud), Mamun, Nakib and Zakir (Mustakim). Referee-Nazir Hussain.

## UZ chairmen demand clarification

The central conference of Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Chairmen Samity on Friday called upon the government to give an open announcement regarding the speculation of annulment or dissolution of the post of Upazila Chairman to dispel all misunderstanding on the issue, reports BSS.

## Budgets

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The allocation in education sector was more than the defence sector in the budget for fiscal 1973-74 but the situation reversed in the next years, Dr Shafiq said in his paper adding that expenditure in unproductive sector had also shot up.

The allocation for unproductive sector rose to 5,000 crore Taka in 1988 while it was only 1300 crore Taka in 1981, for which the economist observed that the development budget had been squeezed following the increase in the expenditure.

Referring to the increase in dependency on foreign aid for preparing development budget, Dr Shafiq said at present this dependency is 100 per cent while just 10 years back it was only 71 per cent.

The debt at present is 40,000 crore Taka or 12.6 billion US dollars while the amount in 1986 was about 7.4 billion US dollar.

He said about 16.5 per cent of our foreign currency earning was being drained out in repaying loans.

Moreover, a very little amount of foreign loan was being spent in the country. About 69 per cent of foreign aid were spent in purchasing foreign goods and other 5 per cent for foreign consultants and contractors.

In fact, Dr Shafiq told the seminar, people got the benefit of only 6 per cent of the foreign loans.

Pointing towards the increase in the dependency on import, Dr Shafiq said expenditure on development work were being squeezed following the increase in the revenue expenditure.

Foreign donors determined our production which, the economist observed, was subjecting the local producers to neglect.

He said "despite being self-sufficient in mustard oil, milk, onion and dal since 10 years, we are importing these items".

The currency was devaluated by 450 times since independence at the directors of World Bank, IMF and donor countries and agencies, Dr Shafiq said adding inflation was only squeezing the market of local products.

The prices of imported goods were raised by 29 per cent during the fiscal year 1988-89 compared to 1987-88 while the increase of export products rose by only 13 per cent.

Editor: S. M. Ali