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# The Daily Star

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**BNPPP meet today**

The emergency meeting of the BNPP (BNPPP) will be held today (June 18) at 8 pm at the Committee Room Number One of the Sangsad Bhaban, a press release said Monday. All the Party MPs have been requested to be present, reports BSS.

**Hamid new VC of Islamic varsity**

The government has appointed Dr M Abdul Hamid Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University for a four-year term. Dr Hamid (45), Professor, Economics Department of Rajshahi University will succeed Dr Strajul Islam, the present incumbent. It was officially announced Monday, reports UNB.

**Khaleda calls on Shahabuddin**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia called on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at his official residence Monday evening prior to her three-day goodwill visit to China. Foreign Minister A F M Mustafizur Rahman was present, reports BSS.

**Air, Navy chief promoted**

Chief of Air Staff, Air Commodore Altaf Hossain Choudhury, ndu, psc has been promoted to the rank of Air Vice Marshal and Chief of Naval Staff, Commodore Muhammad Mohamminul Islam, NCC, BN has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral with effect from June 18, 1991, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Defence in Dhaka, Monday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

**India set for another minority govt : Search for allies and PM**

## Cong short of clear majority



Lal Krishna Advani (R) receives sweets from fellow Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Madan Lal Khurana on Monday in New Delhi after both won seats in the 10th national elections. — AFP photo

NEW DELHI, June 17: Despite a leadership quandary after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the Congress Party was headed back to power Monday with a hefty edge in national elections.

But the once-venerable party, which led a vast and impoverished nation to freedom and democracy a half-century ago, will fall short of a majority, according to results broadcast by state-run television.

Congress Party leaders confidently declared they would form the next government but admitted they would have to seek a coalition or "some working arrangement" with other parties.

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## Smuggling down, PM tells Sangsad

By Staff Correspondent

Smuggling has fallen in the past three months, and the value of Taka has gone up against foreign currencies, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia told the Jatiya Sangsad on Monday.

Replying to a question from Harunur Rashid Khan of BNP, Begum Zia said smuggled goods worth over Taka 33.30 crore were seized and 1,323 alleged smugglers were arrested between January 1990 and May 1991.

Between January 1987 and May 1988 another 4,581 alleged smugglers were arrested.

Smuggled goods worth over Taka 36.58 crore seized. She said that home-bound smuggled goods included : saree, cattle, sugar, salt, leather, cycle and cycle parts, blades, cosmetics, bidi, cigarette, timber, betel nut and betel leave, lock and key, electrical goods, towels, fruits, crackers, sandals, shoes, fish and fishing net.

Outgoing smuggled goods included : polyester cloths, Video Cassette Recorders (VCR), Video Cassette Players (VCP), old garments, copper, brass, shrimp, soybean oil, nylon hosiery products, spare parts of watches, baby food, family planning devices and medicine.

Answering a question from Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury of National Democratic Party she said that steps are underway to strengthen anti-smuggling measures. But police and BDR alone cannot shoulder the task if the people are not made conscious.

Replying to another question from Nurul Islam Moni, an independent MP, she said between January 1982 and December 1990, 823 kilograms and 476 grams of smuggled gold was seized and 278 persons were arrested on charges of gold smuggling.

## JCD, BCL hold rallies, call strike today

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (S-A) who fought night-long gunbattle at Jagannath University College Saturday have separately called day-long strikes in city's educational institutions today protesting the violence.

Two students were killed and over 100 injured when they fought running gunbattles on the campaign and ransacked and set ablaze each others rooms in Dr Milton.

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**THE STAR SPECIAL**

## Link cut in arms budget to assistance, says McNamara

From M Syeduzzaman, The Star Guest Columnist

WASHINGTON, June 17: Former President of the World Bank Robert S McNamara has suggested that aid for developing countries should be linked to the cut in their military expenditures.

He has also called upon donor financial institutions, including the World Bank, to examine military budgets of aid-recipient nations and study how economic development can be enhanced by reducing unnecessary military expenses.

During an exclusive interview for The Daily Star last week the internationally-known expert on economic planning, who once served as the US Secretary of Defence, urged the World Bank to "dissuade weapons exporting nations from supplying arms to countries seeking foreign aid."

In this context, the former World Bank chief conceded that some nations may have problems with their neighbours and it might not be easy to determine the adequacy for military expenditure of a particular country.

But he added, "Most military budgets are excessive compared to the perceived threats, and can be reduced."

Answering a question, the expert who is now associated with several non-government organisations termed "good governance" as an important factor in economic development.

In his view, good governance is based on participatory development, greater accountability of the government, greater transparency in the policy-making process, greater press freedom and freedom to discuss alternative policy packages.

However, McNamara said, "There is no need to have



McNamara: Most military budgets are excessive

## Winners and losers

NEW DELHI, June 17: West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, AIADMK leader, Ms Jayalalitha and former UP Chief Minister ND Tiwari are among the Lok Sabha and state assemblies today, reports PTI.

While Basu retained the Sagachia assembly seat in West Bengal, Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, lost both the Rohpak Lok Sabha seat and Ghirai assembly election in Haryana.

Ms Jayalalitha won the Kangeyam and Barur assembly seats in Tamil Nadu with comfortable margins. Tiwari emerged a victor in the Haldwani assembly seat in UP.

Former union minister KP Unnikrishnan was declared

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## Economic guidelines not provided: Opposition

### 'Budget formulated in conformity with needs'

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition Members in Parliament termed the proposed national budget as heavily dependent on foreign aid, in the general discussion on the budget that continued for the second consecutive day Monday.

The Opposition members viewed that the budget had failed to provide proper economic guidelines.

Treasury Bench members, however, defended the budget saying that it had been formulated in conformity with the present day needs.

The afternoon session witnessed a lively debate on the budgetary allocations proposed by the Finance Minister. Other than the budget, socio-political issues also came up for discussion.

Nurul Islam Moni, taking the floor as the first speaker of the evening session, told the House that he did not see any difference between this year's

and that of last year.

He said that due to imposition of new tax proposals, prices of pulses, sugar and mustard have already been enhanced.

He said commodities like soyabean, coal, ball point pen, cement used by the poor people have been taxed in the new budget whereas taxes on air-conditioners and tissue papers used by the affluent have been reduced.

He said tariff increase has been proposed on 200 to 250 items in the budget.

Terming the Finance Minister's budget speech as self-contradictory, Moni said that the Minister was talking of self-reliance but was going for more foreign assistance.

He said that the amount of grant was less than the previous year's and that of loans was more than the previous year's.

He said that although the

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## Khaleda leaves for China today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia leaves here this morning on a three-day official goodwill visit to China at the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Peng, reports BSS.

During the visit Prime Minister Begum Zia will exchange views on issues of common interest with the Chinese leaders.

Begum Zia and Premier Li Peng will review the bilateral relations, development in the region and global situation during the official talk in Beijing on Wednesday.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the visit would give her an opportunity to know the Chinese leadership, their views and perceptions in the backdrop of the dramatically changed world situation.

## Strike cripples financially overburdened PDB

By Staff Correspondent

The strike by the workers and employees of the Power Development Board (PDB) caused widespread power disruption Monday in the city and elsewhere in the country.

The 72-hour strike to realise their five-point demand began at 6 am on Sunday.

Many areas in the city including Gopibagh, Siddheswari, Mirpur, Karwan Bazar, Kalabagan, Banglabazar, Bara Maghbazar, Fulbaria, Motijheel and other places faced power disruption. The engineers of PDB could restore power supply in few places, but failed in most cases due to shortage of manpower.

Power disruptions were also reported from Chittagong, Rajshahi, Chuadanga, Jamalpur, Barisal, and some industrial areas.

Power supply in many of the affected areas of the city could not be restored till late last night, PDB sources said that the disruption of power supply was caused by normal breakdown or technical faults. Since the workers were abstaining from duties, the faults could not be repaired. The consumer's sufferings might continue tomorrow and more city areas may go under power disruption if the strike continues, they said.

Power disruption has also caused scarcity of water as domestic pumps were not functioning. City dwellers in the affected areas were found running for candles to light their dark houses in the evening.

The fire brigade headquarters at Fulbaria were also affected and its water pump remained out of operation. A fire brigade source said that due to scarcity of water, the fire fighting vehicles might not be able to help in case of a big fire.

An industrialist complained that three units of his specialised textile industry at Dakkhin Khan union remained inoperative since Monday morning due to power failure. He was not getting any help from the PDB people to restore the supply.

Many places in Chittagong city including Agrabad, Chawk Bazar, Love Lane and adjoining areas were facing power disruption since the beginning of the strike.

Meanwhile Chuadanga-Meherpur 33 KV line was demanded Sunday by storm, but could not be repaired. Same was the case with Jamalpur-Sherpur power line which is yet to be restored.

In Rajshahi, power supply was hampered at Setabganj, Fulbaria and other places.

The five-point demands put

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## CPM heading for fourth win in West Bengal

NEW DELHI, June 17: Indian communists were today headed towards a record fourth consecutive election victory in the eastern state of West Bengal, where they have been in power since June 1977, reports AFP.

But a coalition led by slain former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party ousted a four-year-old communist government in the southern coastal state of Kerala, National Television said.

A communist MP here attributed the victory in West Bengal, to the efficacy of state government policies, but blamed a Rajiv Gandhi assassination sympathy wave for the Kerala debacle.

"I think there was some

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## Mahtab suggests tightening belt

By Chapal Bashar

Dr Fasihuddin Mahtab, a former Planning Minister, believes that time is high for adopting pragmatic measures to alleviate growing poverty in the country.

"Nothing is impossible, we have to face the challenges and solve the problems. Scope still exists to overcome the crisis", he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, on 1991-92 budget proposals, he also dwelt on the economic situation of the country.

Dr Mahtab, a technocrat, served the BNP government as Planning Minister for about three years till the end of 1981 and then continued as Finance Minister upto 24 March, 1982.

Mahtab looked at the proposed budget as being better than those of the past nine years but said he had some reservations.

"I am not happy with this budget, it lacks provisions for increasing revenue earnings", he said adding, "we need more revenue income, for which belt should be tightened and sacrifice made by all including the bureaucrats".

He suggested stringent measures to mobilise more domestic resources for investible surplus and drastic cut in revenue expenditure in unproductive sectors. The former Minister said that the people should be taken into confidence and prevailing situation be explained to them.

"I have no doubt that the people will support the measures if true picture is placed before them", he added.

He said, new taxation is not the only way to increase revenue earning and suggested substantial cut in current expenditures to create revenue surplus for productive sectors. (Details on Business Page 8)

## BNP responsible for campus terrorism: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has held the ruling party responsible for the terrorism in the campus and alleged that the government was steering the student community towards an uncertain future as was done by the past autocratic regime.

Addressing the office-bearers of the newly elected Bangladesh Institute of Glass and Ceramic Students Union at Bangabandhu Bhaban, she said that the people and the students hoped terrorism would

See Page 10 Col. 1

## FM goes to USSR July 9

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union from July 9 to 12, it was officially learnt here Monday, reports BSS.

He will be visiting the Soviet Union at the invitation of Soviet Foreign Minister A A Bessmertnykh.

The Foreign Ministerial level visit from Bangladesh to the Soviet Union has not taken place for last many years.

The coming visit of the Foreign Minister at high political level is viewed as "important" in the diplomatic circles.

# Last, legal plank of apartheid uprooted

JOHANNESBURG, June 17: Parliament abolished the last major apartheid law Monday in an overwhelming vote that ends the racial classification of South Africa's citizens, reports AP.

The repeal of the Population Registration Act was a milestone in the dismantling of apartheid. But the action did not address the biggest race reform still confronting South Africa : negotiating a new constitution that will give blacks the vote.

The Population Registration Act of 1950 classified citizens as black, white Asian or mixed-race and served as the foundation of virtually all apartheid measures.

"It was an act of racial bigotry and caused untold suffering and humiliation," said Barney Desai, spokesman for the Pan Africanist Congress, a militant anti-apartheid group. "I'm not going to say, 'Hooray.' But in essence, one is saying goodbye to a bad dream."

Racial classification determined where a person could live, which schools one could attend, which public toilets one could use and which cemeteries one was buried in.

Many racial restrictions already have been removed by President F.W. de Klerk, but the lives of most blacks have not been changed by his reforms.

Of the 308 members in the three-chamber parliament, only the 38 members of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party voted against scrapping the Population Registration Act.

Parliament approved a replacement measure that ends all new race classifications and removes race references that remained in other laws. But people already racially classified will remain so until a new non-racial constitution is negotiated.

Since coming to power in 1990, de Klerk has moved swiftly to end statutory discrimination. Neighborhoods, hospitals, property ownership, parks, beaches and many other facilities have been legally desegregated.

But for the vast majority of blacks, little has changed in their day-to-day lives.

Black townships and schools are overcrowded and underfunded, the best hospitals are far away. Most blacks can't afford relatively inexpensive homes in black neighborhoods, let alone those in affluent white suburbs.

Critics also note that some reforms have loopholes allowing whites to retain segregation if they wish.

For example, white public schools may now be integrated, but only if 72 percent of white parents at a school vote in favour of accepting children of other races. About 100 schools in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban have

began accepting black students, but the vast majority remain segregated.

The repeal of the Population Registration Act is likely to bring a further easing of foreign sanctions, which have been steadily crumbling over the past year in response to de Klerk's reforms.

De Klerk says he is ready to begin black-white talks on a new constitution that will give the 30 million blacks equal voting rights.

About 4,000 blacks have been killed in violence during the last year and a half.

## Pirs evading taxes, AL MP says

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League MP Dr Kasim Abu Yusuf yesterday told parliament that a section of 'pirs' in the country including the Artshahi piri was evading income tax payments.

Taking part in the budgetary discussion Yusuf said that the Artshahi piri was amassing huge wealth in the name of religion but was not paying income tax.

He said that this piri floated a political party and also became an industrialist by investing money in textile mills and other businesses.

Demanding an investigation into the matter, he said that takes must be realised from the evaders.