Star Economic Report

Nationalised jute mills of the country incurred a loss of Tk 1301.14 crore during the last 18 years since 1972.

State Minister for Jute Abdul Mannan Bhutyan informed the Jatiya Sangsad this on Saturday replying to a question from Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna).

Abdul Mannan, replying to Prof. Rafigul Islam (AL-Jessore), also said that the mills lost Tk 1148.14 cr in nine years from 1981-82 to 1989-90.

He attributed the losses to continuous fall of demand and prices of jute products and uneven competition with synthetics in the world market.

Besides, higher production cost due to higher wages and fringe benefits, power and fuel rates, price hike of maintenance materials due to inflation and higher bank interests added substantially to the losses, he said.

He said that the government took a number of measures to overcome the losses. The measures included ensuring better working condition to increase efficiency in the jute mills, drive to maintain and expand jute goods market, campaigning about the good affects of jute products and bad affects of synthetics on human health and environment and promulgation of laws restricting internal production and use of synthetics to expand the local market for jute products.

Abdul Mannan told Sardar Sakhawat Hossain (BNP-Narsingdi) that the public sector jute mills had outstanding bank loans of Tk 1145.11 crore of which Tk 611.20 crore were short-term and Tk 533.91 crore long-term.

Answering to another question from Hossain the State Minister said that the Adamjee Jute Mills had 23,099 permanent and 7,243 exchange workers whose monthly wages amounted Tk 5.15 crore. He said that the expenditure of the mill in 1989-90 fiscal year was Tk 245.45 crore against an income of Tk 152.47 crore.

the minimum of trust needed

Kucan said he had no in-

In spite of the agreement to

formation that Yugoslav army

units were pulling out of

halt all fighting at least four

people have died since late

Friday and continued violence

ter Jelko Kachin told the press

conference that the Yugoslav

Air Force raided the Hrvatinia

border post, held by Slovenes,

before noon (100 GMT) and

combats were raging near the

A still unknown number of

foreigners were killed by the

Air Force in raids on vehicles

blocking tank advances, he

journalists who died in an air

raid on Ljubljana's Brnik air-

port Friday were still on the

ground because of continuing

fighting between Slovenian

forces and the Yugoslav army

which each control parts of

out new clashes as Slovenian

authorities said they will not

give up control over border

"The main border passages

are under our control and we

will keep them," Slovenian

Foreign Minister Dimitrij Ru-

Related story on Page 5

Meet on bill

From Page 1 Col. 4

should be borne by the

strongest shoulders," said an

influential MP commenting on

the suggested changes in the

Duties on unrefined soy-

abean oil and palm oil have

been increased to 50 per cent

and 40 per cent respectively

from 23 per cent and excise

duty on gas has been raised to

10 per cent for domestic and

exemption from fresh taxation

of essential items, utility ser-

vice and agricultural inputs

would help mitigate sufferings

of the commonman and the

peasantry, already groaning

Presided over by Deputy

under poverty and unemploy-

Leader of the House Prof. AQM

Badruddoza Chowdhury, the

meeting was addressed, among

others, by Col. (Rtd) Akbar

Hossain, Khandaker Abdul

Malek, Dr Sirajul Islam

Bhutyan and Mahbubul Huq

ALPP meeting

held

Parliamentary Party on

Sangsad Bhaban with Leader of

the Opposition Sheikh Hasina

country's political and eco-

nomic situation with particular

reference to fiscal measures

proposed in the national bud-

get, constitutional amendment

bill and warrant of precedence.

the meeting expressed deep

shock at the death of

Moulvibazar District Awami

League leader and freedom

fighter Babu Produnna Roy and

prayed for salvation of the de-

opposition's conference room,

was adjourned till 9 am today.

The meeting, held in the

parted soul.

in a condolence resolution,

The meeting discussed

in the chair, reports UNB.

Saturday held a meeting at

Awami

League

The BNPPP members said

new fiscal measures.

other uses.

"The heaviest burden

Observers would not rule

the airport.

posts still held.

The bodies of two Austrian

Crklje military airbase.

Serbia's information minis-

to open talks.

was reported.

Slovenia.

The community of Independence call

From Page 1 Col. 7

which the army would withdraw, Slovenia and Croatia to suspend their declarations of independence made on Tuesday and the appointment of Croatia's Stipe Mesic as Presi-

Serbia, Croatia's arch-rival, blocked Mesic's election on May 15, saying he would break up Yugoslavia. The Balkan country has been without a President and Commander-in-Chief of its Armed Forces since then. Serbia on Saturday lifted its veto.

Tanjug did not say when the postponed session was likely to take place.

Slovenia President Milan Kucan said today that his republic wanted its declaration of independence from Yugoslavia to remain in effect, despite a three month moratorium agreed in negotiations with the European Community.

Kucan, quoted by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, implied that the moratorium applied only to the practical application of last Tuesday's declaration.

He also declared that no guarantee existed that Yugoslav troops would return to their barracks as provided for under the ceasefire accord brokered by an EC delegation. "I wonder who could give such an order to the army," he said.

The statement appeared to be a veiled reference to the federal presidency, which acts as the commander-in -chief of the armed forces under the constitution.

On his return from Zagreb where he had reached agreement with federal authorities to end the military clashes in Slovenia, Kucan said in Ljubljana he did not give way on the principal issue of Slovenian independence. There is no possible way back as far as our independence is concerned," he told a press conference.

The agreed three month moratorium was a mere respite before procedures for total sovereignty would be resumed, he said.

"I do not envisage a democratic way for Sloventa to again become a part of Yugoslavia, he said, adding that Slovenia could only be temporarily annexed after the elimination of its legitimate authorities.

Questioned on future talks with the centre, Kucan said after this war between David and Golfath, we no longer have

Status of MPs

From Page 1 Col. 4

be removed soon.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, participating in the debate, demanded withdrawal of the letter which, he said, insulted

the members of parliament. Standing again, Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed said he did not think that Chief Whip Khondaker Delwar Hossain would create controversy over the issue as he did not say anything accusing BNP in this connection. He pointed out that it was he who had proposed amendment to the warrant of precedence of 1986 for upgrading the status of

Col (Rtd) Shawkat Ali (AL) said although the warrant of precedence had undergone changes over the past years, the status of MPs had remained unchanged. He felt that there was no need to constitute a privilege committee and parliament itself was capable of determining the status of MPs, he said.

ALPP sources said. Editor: S. M. Ali

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French and English workers of TML (Trans Manch Link) burst in joy after a giant drilling machine broke through the last section in the cross-channel tunnel on Friday. The tunnel is officially due to open in June 1993 - AFP photo

Tamil Nadu asks Lankan refugees to register or face deportation

NEW DELHI, June 29 India's Tamil Nadu state, where former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by suspected Sri Lankan Tamil militants, ordered refugees from the Indian Ocean island today to register with police or face deportation, report agen-

As investigators tried to track down the suspected masterminded behind the assassination, a Sri Lankan Tamil called Sivarsan, the state, government issued its warning in an advertisement on the front page of the Madras-based

newspaper The Hindu. Tamil Nadu, close to the shores of Sri Lanka, is home to at least 100,000 Sri Lankan Tamils who have fled guerilla

Most of the refugees live in state-run camps.

"However, a large number are either living with friends and relatives or on their own," the advertisement said. It gave such refugees a week to register or face "severe penal action.... including liability for

Prabhakaran

From Page 1 Col. 5

the LTTE network in India's

ficial comment on the report

but detectives connected with

the government's investigation

In mid-1987, Gandhi, act

Lanka to end the Tamil sepa-

ratist campaigning spear

offensive after the LTTE re-

jected the accord, refusing to

lay down arms and were re-

National Front government of

Gandhi's successor Vishwanath

The Front alliance was

working majority and suc-

ceeded by a breakaway faction

which ruled for four months

with the support of the

Front government collapsed

the LTTE had made up its

mind to prevent Rajiv Gandhi

from regaining power even if it

required the ultimate deter-

rent -- his assassination," India

Flag meeting

From Page 1 Col. 8

BSF and BDR commanders to-

day, the Bangladesh side was

informed that Mofazzel was

taken to Karimpur Hospital in

Nadia district for treatment

anything about Mofazzel's ac-

tual condition. The BSF

Commander assured the BDR

Commander that they will

hand over the victim to

Bangladesh authorities after

his release from police cus-

to 7 pm was held near Mutib

Nagar border outpost.

Bangladesh side was led by 13

Battalion Commander Lt Col

Mostafa Anwar and the Indian

side by 59 Battalion BSF

over telephone that at the

meeting they lodged a formal

protest with the BSF about

Col Mostafa Anwar told UNB

Commander.

Friday's shooting.

The Indian side did not say

under police custody.

At a flag meeting between

Today said in its latest issue.

"Even before the National

Indian troops went on the

There was no immediate of

southern Tamil Nadu state.

peared to be accurate.

headed by the LTTE.

Pratap Singh.

Congress (I)

deportation." Landlords and employers must register Sri Lankan Tamil tenants and workers, it said. "Failure to do so or supply of

wrong information will be deal

way out of a kidnapping staged

by another militant group.

JKLF holding Yitzhaki A Kashmir separatist leader said today that his guerillas were still holding Israeli tourist Yair Yitzhaki, who ran into them after he fought his

with severely."

Javed Ahmed Meer, chief of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), telephoned an international news agency saying: "We are awaiting a report by our special committee investigating the whole incident. Meanwhile he (Yitzhaki) remains as our

Asked how long the investigation would take. Meer said: "It's up to the committee."

Yitzhaki was one of six Israeli men who were seized on Thursday by a Muslim fun-

damentalist group in Srinagar, summer capital of India's only Muslim-majority state. The kidnappers freed an Israeli woman and Dutch woman who were with them.

Later the men seized their kidnappers' guns and fought back. One Israeli was killed but four escaped, three of them wounded. Yitzhaki said in a telephone interview on Friday that he had got separated from his friends during the gunfight, was attacked by Kashmiri villagers, and was rescued by

The JKLF said at first that it would free him at once. Then, apparently under pressure from other separatist groups who refuse to believe the Israelis were ordinary tourists. It said it would hold Yitzhaki while it investigated the gun-

Punjab Twenty-one persons includ-

ing nine militants and two BSF personnel, were killed in Punjab since last night.

announced that the remaining

cut motions were deemed to

House Prof Badruddoza

Chowdhury thanked the Op-

position members for their

acceptance of the Deputy

Speaker's proposal. He said

that after nine years of auto-

cratic rule, a meaningful and

significant Jatiya Sangsad

Saifur Rahman wound up dis-

cussions on the demand of

regime of the past responsible

for increased expenditures in

many areas. He agreed that

much of the expenditures

(supplementary) Bill 1991,

The Appropriation (vote o

Earlier, Finance Minister

He held the autocratic

Appropriation

The Deputy Leader of the

have not been moved.

could be established.

supplementary budget.

were not necessary.

An eight-member militants

years of invaluable service to the nation'.

gan struck in village Fatehpur

killing a Sarpanch and his

Lakhwimder Singh, his son

Satinam Singh, brother-in-law

Baljinder Singh and sister-in-

Rao turns 70

Narasimha Rao, who turned 70

today was greeted by the

President, R Venkataraman,

the Vice President, Dr

Shankar Dayal Sharma, his

ministerial colleagues and a

leagues and MPs and people

from various walks of life vis-

ited the Prime Minister's resi-

dence to felicitate Mr Rao on

The Tamil Nadu Chief

Minister, Miss Jayalalitha, in a

message to Rao said, 'on this

joyous occasion, I wish you

good health and many more

Many of his ministerial col-

Prime Minister PV

They shot down Sarpanch

three close relatives

Amritsar district last night.

law Amarjeet Kaur.

number of MPs.

his birthday.

Govt discards Serajul Haq's allegations

The government has discarded the allegation raised at a recent press conference by Advocate Serajul Haq, chief lawyer defending former President H M Ershad to the effect that he was not given fa cilities to meet his client, reports BSS.

A press note issued here Saturday by the Home Ministry said, attention of the govern ment had been drawn to some versions of Advocate Serajul Hag's June 23 press conference, published in a section of the press.

In the press conference Serajul Haq had alleged that the lawyers defending Ershad were not given sufficient facilities to consult their client. The government thinks it proper to unvail the actual position for

the information of the public. The Arms case against Ershad began on March 19 1991. The case continued for 30 sessions till June 12, 1991 The accused got opportunities to make necessary consultations with his lawyers for two and a half hours both prior and after each session. Besides, he was given opportunities 5 times to meet and consult with his lawyers at Gulshan sub-jail and Dhaka Central Jail Between January 11, 1991 and June 23, 1991 which, the gov ernment thought was ade-

quate, the Press Note said. All papers and documents relating to the corruption cases filed against Ershad by the anti-corruption department for amassing wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income were also handed over to his lawyers. The accused, Ershad was given chances to make consultations with his lawyers, the Press Note said.

The government hopes that all confusion would be removed following the above clarifications, the Press Note added.

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examination-1991 of Jessore and Comilla Education Boards, which was earlier postponed due to April 29 cyclone and tidal surge. begins today officials sources

A total 2.28,753 candidates of the two boards are appear

The Midnight File

Morocco-Polisario truce

GENEVA, June 29: Morocco and the Polisario rebel movement have agreed to a UN sponsored cease-fire September 6. ending more than 15 years of fighting over the western Sahara, the United Nations said after two days of talks between envoys from both sides with a UN special representative, Johannes Manz, reports AP.

Emergency in South Ossetia

MOSCOW, June 29: The Georgian legislature Friday announced a two-month State of Emergency and night-long curfew in two districts of the republic's South Ossetian region that have been wracked for months by ethnic violence, the Soviet news agency Tass said, reports AP.

Elizabeth visits Northern Ireland

LISBURN, June 29: Queen Elizabeth II, making her first visit to Northern Ireland since 1977, on Saturday saluted the work of a British Army regiment. Roads were blocked an security was intense as the monarch arrived in this southern suburb of Belfast to salute present conours to the Ulster Defense Regiment, a locally raised and largely part-time force, reports AP.

Mt Pinatubo continues to shake

MANILA, June 29: Mount Pinatubo shook Saturday with 191 high-frequency earth tremors and continued to spew ash up to 10,000 meters (33,000 feet), the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said, reports AP.

EC summit ends

LUXEMBOURG, June 29: The twelve European Community (EC) leaders ended their summit here today after two days of talks dominated by the Yugoslav crisis. Due to the crisis, little work was accomplished on the official goal of the summit, which reached an accord on the question of a political federation of EC states sharing a common currency, reports

Transfer of power

From Page 1 Col. 7 right through the 60-minute interview. While she answered many of our questions in general terms, she seemed to know her mind on the subjects brought up for her comments.

The issues which dominated the conversation related to the BNP's switch of position in favour of the parliamentary form, the place of national consensus in solving the problems facing Bangladesh, the student violence, the Prime Minister's recent foreign tours and the agenda for the gov-

these issues, Begum Zia showed a reasonable and moderate attitude towards the Opposition but took a strong line on student violence and a cautious approach on such a complex issue as restoring discipline to financial institu-

On her party's decision to support the change-over to the parliamentary form, Begum Zia said, "We are now going back to the parliamentary system because people want it. In the past, BNP had proved that it could properly run the country under a presidential form Now, we will again prove that the country could be administered well under the parlia-

mentary system. However, when asked why she had changed her own position from her commitment to the presidential system to a parliamentary form, the Prime Minister said, "We had never been rigid on this issue. However, we had said that the issue would be decided by the Parliament." She also said that in her view, no system is bad. "It depends on how we make the system work," she added

Begum Zia answered in affirmative when asked if the

slowly emerging national consensus on the form of government could be extended to other important areas.

She said, "We are ready to solve problems facing the country through dialogue. We want to do this in the interest of the country's development programme. Taking a strong line against

continuing student violence in the universities, the Prime Minister said, "The indiscipline we now see in the universities is being created at personal levels, like for occupying seats in the halls. It is Answering questions on not their task. They should devote more time to their studies. Now, different groups are clashing over petty matters."

> Then, without naming any political party in particular, Begum Zia complained that some 'bad elements' expelled by her party were being sheltered by another party.

> While blaming the ousted Ershad government for the problems her administration had inherited, Prime Minister spoke optimistically about efforts made by the government in the socio-economic fields, about the offers of support extended by foreign governments and about prospects of a dialogue with all concerned on student violence.

Many a time, she insisted that her government's ability in tackling the staggering problems largely stemmed from its democratic roots.

In this context, Begum Zia seemed pleased to know that the Star's special feature section being published with today's paper is titled, "Hundred days of Democracy.

Conversation: Extracts from the interview Page 4 Special articles by staff writers Page 5 and 6

UN team in Iraq

From Page 1 Col. 5 were tracking it.

Meanwhile, in Sardawa: Kurdish leaders announced rejection Saturday of an initial lraqi proposal for granting them autonomy in northern Iraq, saying Saddam Hussein proposed unacceptable condi-

Massoud Barzani, guerilla leader of the Kurdistan Front, an umbrella group of eight major Kurdish political parties. said he will return to Baghdad for further negotiations with the president's administration.

Barzani had said after talks in Baghdad earlier this month that an autonomy accord was imminent, but on Friday, he said, "it still needs further discussion."

"We will tell the Iraqis that the preconditions are unacceptable," said Jalal Talabani, guerilla leader of the secondbiggest group in the Front, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Barzani, leader of the dominant Kurdistan Democratic Party, said the main problem posed by the proposal was that

it excluded several Kurdish ar-

eas - the oil-rich city of

Kirkuk among them - from

the autonomous region. Other areas still demanded by the Kurds include Mandely.

Sinjar, Zimar, and Khanigin. But members of the Kurdistan Front also have rejected lraqi preconditions under which the Kurds would have to side with Saddam's Baath Party against its enemies inside and outside Iraq and

sever ties with the West. The Iraqi proposal would also maintain police authority under the presidency, and requires anyone seeking political

office to swear allegiance to the Baath Party, said Barahan Sali, a spokesman for Talabant's group.

"Such an agreement won't inspire the confidence of the Kurdish people. Unless they feel safe, it is not worth the paper it is written on," said Talabani said the main

proposal were for greater autonomy and a new constitution to be drawn up by a freelyelected parliament. The eight parties met sepa-

points of the Kurds' counter-

rately Saturday to discuss their own counterproposals.

The Kurdistan Front leadership is to meet again Sunday to discuss when and with whom Barzani will go to Baghdad for

Azad Kashmir

From Page 1 Col. 8

Saturday's shooting took place in the Athmugam area of the scenic Neelam valley. where Indian and Pakistani troops often exchange small arms and artillery fire across the United Nations-monitored ceasefire line.

last bastions of popular support for former prime minster Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party since it was routed in national and provincial elections last October.

Azad Kashmir is one of the

Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Mumtaz Hussain Rathore faces a strong challenge from the president of the semi-autonomous region, Sardar Abdul Qayyum, and his Muslim Con-

Supplementary Budget budget and the session should From Page 1 Col. 8 continue for a longer period. The Deputy Speaker then

Taka 3885 crore 66 lakh 74 thousand were passed by voice-vote. The demands were moved by different ministers to meet necessary expenditures during the fiscal year 1990-91.

into the slaying said it ap-A total of 226 cut motions the Appropriation (supplementary) Bill 1991 were not moved after an uning under an accord reached derstanding was reached be with Colombo, despatched tween the Treasury and the thousands of troops to Sri Opposition benches.

When the afternoon sitting of the House began Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali requested the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw cut motions placed by the Opposi-

tion MPs to save time. called in March 1990 by the The Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, after consultation with members informed the House that the opposition would accept the devoted out by parliament in cision of the chair in this re-November 1990 after it lost a

Sheikh Hasina said that it was unfortunate the present government and the Parlia ment had to pass the supplementary budget of the past au tocratic government.

She mentioned that many of the expenditures of this supplementary budget were made in the unproductive sector.

law and order situation in the country had deteriorated, even then additional expenditures were made in this sector.

future more time should be al-

She pointed out that the

Sheikh Hasina said that in

which was adopted by the House, granted sums of Taka 4175,49,48,000 from the consolidated fund to meet the additional expenses in the fiscal year 1990-91.

account) Bill 1991 granted a sum of Taka 4091,87,94,000 out of the consolidated fund for the 1991-92 fiscal year to meet the expenditures of various ministries. Finance Minis-

ter Saifur Rahman moved both the bills

Before adjournment of the House last night five members from both sides of Parliament participated in the debate on located for discussion on the the finance bill.

Four killed in road accidents

three students were killed and over 10 injured, six of them seriously in two road accidents in Dhaka and Gazipur Saturday. According to a correspon-

dent, the three students, The flag meeting from 5 pm | Nazrul Islam (26), Julhasuddin (27) and Bellal Mathu died on the spot when their jeep collided head-on with a truck near Bhabanipur under Gazipur district. The jeep driver Yusuf was sent to Gazipur hospital where his condition was stated to be serious.

Nazrul Islam and Julhasuddin were final year students of the Bangladesh Agriculture University.

Nagar in the city. Bodies of the victims were

sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy The students were going to Kishoregonj boarding the jeep belonging to IGA, a voluntary organisation. The truck driver

Another person died on the spot while six more were injured when a Demra-bound passenger bus skidded off the road at Matuati on the Dhaka-Demra highway in the evening.

By Staff Correspondent Four persons including Mymensingh and Bellal Mathu, was a final year student of Bangladesh Agriculture Institute at Sher-e-Bangla

managed to escape. A case was filed with Gazipur police.

SSC exams

said. reports BSS.

ing in the examination.