BJP can't stall Tinbigha transfer, says Jyoti

CALCUTTA, June 16: The West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu today asserted that the leasing out of the Tinbigha corridor to Bangladesh would take place as per schedule, reports PTI.

Talking to newsmen here, Basu said the state government was trying to help the Centre for the implementation of the Indo-Bangladesh agreement on transfer of Tinbigha.

Basu said road construction work from the east to the west of the corridor had already been completed

Replying to a question, the Chief Minister said there should not be any bloodbath over the issue, adding "blood should be used for other purposes."

Basu said 'some people' had carried out a misleading campaign against the accord which had led to a massive demonstration at Tinbigha yesterday in protest against the road construction.

The situation at Tinbigha, he claimed, had gone in favour of the agreement following

Italian grant

for disaster

preparedness

crore as grant for disaster

preparedness and response

project in Bangladesh, reports

A memorandum of under-

standing to this effect was

signed in Dhaka Tuesday be-

two countries.

Chittagong district.

tween the governments of the

dertaken for a post-cyclone

rehabilitation and reconstruc-

tion in Banshkhali upazila of

impact of disasters as well as

prompt and appropriate re-

sponse to disaster affected

population and enabling the

community members to iden-

tify their own health needs and

strengthen their capacity as

Bangladesh Claudio Pacifico

and ERD Joint Secretary M

Faizur Rahman Chaudhury

signed the MOU on behalf of

their respective governments.

Malaysia assures

aid for Rohingyas

Youth and Sports Haji Annuar

Bin Haji Musa said in Dhaka

Tuesday that his country would

continue to raise fund for

Rohingya refugees till the issue

was bilaterally resolved be-

tween Bangladesh and

International Airport prior to

his departure concluding the

three-day visit, Musa ex-

pressed the hope that all

countries would continue to

provide assistance for the

of Bangladesh for giving shel-

refugees.

academy.

Bangladesh.

ter and other help for the

cussions with State Minister

for Youth and Sports Sadek

Hossain, Musa said, "There is

wide prospects of cooperation

short course scholarships for

Bangladeshi officials and

sportsmen in different institu-

golf academy, and badminton

scope of providing vocational

ding for hosting the 16th

Commonwealth game in 1998

as in the past no Asian country

sought the support of all Asians

countries including that of

Gorbachev

From Page 1 Col 8

by presidential decrees in Au-

gust and November 1991 as

Gorbachev criticised Palestini-

ans on Monday for siding with

Iraq against the US-led al-

liance in last year's Gulf War.

Reuter says from Jerusalem:

"I must say I did not like

the Palestinians' stance during

the Gulf War all that much and

they know it," said Gorbachev,

61, who lined up with the al-

the conflict.

lies but did not send troops to

the Soviet Union dissolved.

In this connection, Musa

training for the youth.

has got the opportunity.

He said, there was also

Musa said, Malaysia is bid-

tions like football academy,

He said Malaysia could offer

between the two countries."

He praised the government

Referring to bilateral dis-

swelling number of refugees.

Talking to BSS at Zia

Malaysian Minister for

Ambassador of Italy to

self-reliance measure.

It is aimed at reducing the

The project has been un-

Italy will provide Tk 5.30

meetings and processions by left parties explaining the locals that Kuchlibari would not be cut off from the rest of the

The Chief Minister critieised the Congress (I) leaders for refusing to visit Tinbigha along with the left front dele-

The Congress (1)'s statement on Tinbigha 'would only strengthen the BJP's stand on the issue" Basu said, adding the BJP would not succeed in stalling the transfer of the corridor to Bangladesh.

Another report says, the Prime Minister, F V Narasimha Rao, is likely to meet in New Delhi on June 20 a delegation of the West Bengal Congressand its legislature party which visited Tinbigha recently to make an on-the-spot study of the situation.

Giving this information to PTI here today, Sudip Bandopadhyay, MLA and a member of the delegation, said that the CLP (I) leader. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, now in Bombay, was earlier con-

tacted by them requesting him to seek an appointment with the Prime Minister.

He said that the delegation wanted to apprise the Prime Minister of the prevailing 'serious' situation in Tinbigha in detail and their impression gathered after a talk with the local inhabitants there.

Bandopadhyay said that Ray had asked him and the leader of the team, Ambika Banerjee, and Saugata Roy to reach Delhi by June 19 along with other members of the team which visited Tinbigha for the purpose of talks with the Prime Minister.

A joint team of the CLP (I) and WBPCC (I), which visited Tinbigha on June 13, had in a report sent to the Prime Minister yesterday expressed doubts whether the leasing of the Tinbigha corridor to Bangladesh could take place on June 26 without the use of force and bloodshed in the face of resistance to such leasing by the local inhabitants.



A Muslim refugee from the Bosnian town of Zvornik washes her baby early Tuesday at the platform of the Zagreb railway station after spending several nights in one of the carriages while they wait for a place in a refugee -AFP photo

Food aid pledge

From Page 1 Col 7

The Minister said that the budgetary allocation for food subsidy for the upcoming fiscal year had been reduced to Taka 275 crore from the Taka 380 crore allocation for 1991-92.

He added that this was being done in line with the government policy to reduce food subsidy and keep it at a minimum as provision of a one-taka benefit to the consumer an additional Taka 6.80 has to be spent from the exchequer for transportation and other costs.

Quoting Agriculture Ministry figures, he noted that the food production target for the ongoing fiscal year was set at 200 lakh metric tons and the actual production during the previous fiscal year stood at 188.56 lakh metric tons.

However, he said that following a preliminary survey and after the losses from drought, cattle-feed, seed and wastage were taken into account, it was being estimated that the net food production for the year was likely to stand at 169.92 lakh metric tons as against a requirement of

182.12 lakh metric tons. Saying that the government's food grain procurement drive during the year was "satisfactory", he termed the current food stock (upto 14 June) position of 11 lakh met ric tons in godowns a " con-

fortable" one. He said that 3.35 lakh mct ric tons of paddy had already been procured (upto March) during the current Irri-Boro season as against 2.64 lakh metric tons during the same

period last year. He added that the target to procure five lakh metric tons of paddy was likely to be exceeded. "Surprisingly and fortunately the Irri-Boro crop has

not been affected by the drought this year, " he said. The government has already

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procured 76,500 metric tons of wheat compared to 54,530 nictric tons last year. The wheat production target for the year was set at one lakh metric tons.

The minister pointed out that the government had given emphasis on the internal procurement drive to ensure fair price to the growers during the harvesting season and to provide incentives for higher production.

Tenders for the cash purchase of two lakh metric tons of wheat from abroad had already been floated and the arrival of this shipment is expected by the end of August

Islam said that the private sector was also being encouraged to import wheat in line with strengthening the market

economy. It was being expected that nearly one lakh metric tons of wheat would be imported soon under the private sector and the government has even agreed to assist it by providing food storage facilities on rent, he added.

The private sector would also be involved in the internal food procurement drive and one lakh metric tons of food grains would be purchased through open tenders during the ongoing Irri-Boro season, the Minister said.

The present market price (of food grains) was stable and the government was prepared to face any calamity after meet ing the food needs of the peoplc," he said.

To stabilise the market price, he added, more emphasis would be placed on the " open market sale" of food grains at lower prices instead of relying on the rationing

Replying to a question the minister said that the government was selling wheat at Taka 6.80 per Kilogram to 250 big flour mills and the 10,000 small wheat crushers in the country. He added that it was " unfortunate" that they were selling the wheat to the consumers at Taka 14 per kilogram and that in future subsidy for the flour mills would be reduced and ultimately

Food Secretary A N M Eusuf and Director General of Food Mahe Alam were also present at the press conference.

withdrawn.



JCD members standing in a queue in front of the Prime Minister's office at Sugandha to -Star photo attend JCD council session yesterday. Story one Page 1

smooth holding of JS session

Dhaka Metropolitan Police has announced certain measures aimed at ensuring smooth holding of the budge session in parliament begin ning June 18 (Thursday), re-

A DMP press release issued last night said carrying of arms, ammunitions, explosives and holding of meetings demonstrations and processions will be restricted on some roads and areas from the night of June 17. The restrictions will cover

Mymensingh Road upto Tejgaon old Airport from Sonargaon crossing, Mirpur Road from Dhanmondi Road 27 crossing upto Shaymoli Cinema Hall, the crossing of Agargaon link road and Rokeya Sarani upto Parjatan crossing from cast side of Indira Road upto west side of Manik Mia Avenue and the restricted roads and areas of Sangsad Bhaban.

The restrictions will remain valid till the end of the budget

Observe hartal June 21: AL

Abdus Samad Azad and Amir Hossain Amu, acting president and acting general secretary respectively of Bangladesh Awami League, have called upon the people to observe hartal on June 21, reports

In a statement in Dhaka they said the Awami League will not allow to foil the verdict of people and will uphold the aspirations of the people at

all cost. The statement said the coming budget will be a document of tall talks, falsehood and an anti-people policy like

the past ones. They also criticised what they called harassment of Awami League workers in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Munshiganj Sirajganj and other places. The statement also criticised the deteriorating law and order si-

tuation in the country. Amu in another statement said the Awami League chief and leader of the opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina will home today return (Wednesday) at 10 am by Saudia Airlines.

Meanwhile, chief whip of the opposition Mohammad Nasim has demanded immediate release of Mostafizur Rahman MP from detention.

He said Rahman should be allowed to face the charges against him and there is no point in keeping him behind bars under the Special Powers

Longer the chat, larger the bill

NEW DELHI, June 16: Local

For years, all local calls in

telephone chats can now cost a bundle in many cities in India. talkers discovered Tuesday, reports AP.

India cost the same, no matter how long you talked. Now, in dozens of cities,

callers get charged for every five minutes of their call. A 30minute gab, for instance, is considered six local phone calls, which each cost a rupee (5 cents). In India, 90 per cent of the

people make brief local calls, the department found in a recent survey. But some people transmit computer data all day on the phone for only one ru-Officials said the new rates

would reduce the jamming of many city telephone lines and increase the phone company's profits.

Steps to ensure | Arms factories From Page 1 Col 5 Bhatnagar.

technology to New Delhi despite US opposition.

The United States slapped a two-year ban in May on an Indian space agency and a Russian firm after they refused to review a 200-million-dollar deal for a rocket engine to be supplied by Moscow. Drukov said Russia, China,

France and now India had the technology to launch satellites.

That's why the process (of India-Russia space cooperation) will continue despite the efforts of some American companies to reserve (their) monopoly," he told The Pi oneer, "they won't be able to."

The ambassador described Russians as 'very bitter' at the United States for virtually holding a gun to Russia's head and forcing the former superpower to toe its line.

"But Russia will bounce back as a world power, and start playing a role in keeping with its status," he was quoted as saying adding that he felt it would take five to 10 years for his country's economy to re-

AP adds: Alexander Sharov, a Russian Embassy spokesman said Drukov was in no mood to discuss this topic with The Associated Press because "What he was going to say he has already said."

spokesman for India's Defence Ministry, refused to comment on Drukov's proposal.

But Jasjit Singh, director of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, an independent think tank that ad vises the Defence Ministry, said India would benefit from

taken seriously," Singh said in an interview. This isn't a casual offer." The best thing for both the

The ambassador has to be

countries is to enter into what could be called joint ventures in defence," he said. "I firmly believe that we should do that. On Thursday and Friday, US

officials will meet officials in New Delhi in their latest at tempt to persuade India to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Singh said he hopes officials

in the West don't oppose the Russian proposal to export military factories to India.

"I think that's a good thing for India and Russia and stabil ity all around," he said.

"The Russian defence industry is so vast, if parts of it can be stabilised through this arrangement, that's another process like the financial aid from the Western countries that could stabilise the Russian economy."

Bush-Yeltsin summit

From Page 1 Col 8 the former Soviet Union.

Today marks the beginning of a new era, a new kind of summit," said Bush, "not a meeting between two powers struggling for global supremacy, but between two partners striving to build a democratic peace."

Al' adds: Yeltsin Tuesday said his summit meeting with Bush will produce an agree ment calling for a new round of missile reductions.

"When the president take charge of something you may be sure it will be handled in the most efficient way," Yeltsin told reporters at the State Department before a luncheon with Secretary of State James A Baker .

President Bush and I trust ach other. That means we will reach an agreement."

AFP says, as the leaders of Russia and the United States began another summit here, officials from both countries quietly acknowledged that Moscow is no longer in a position to assert superpower equality with Washington.

This abrupt change in the public rhetoric filtering out of both camps, little-noticed but historic in its implications, signalled a fundamental shift in the way the Kremlin and the White House will approach bilateral relations in the future and raised the likelihood that the two countries would sign a new strategic disarmament accord during the summit.

"We are not discussing arms control in the old sense of counterbalancing each other," Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said as he and US Secretary of State James Baker went into last-minute talks aimed at securing an arms agreement.

"We appreciate what the US has done for stability," he added.

Kozyrev's remarks, which contrast sharply with Russia's disarmament policy as spelled out by President Boris Yeltsin earlier this year, fell strikingly into line with comments made just hours earlier by US President George Bush who asserted that the cold war doctrine of achieving strategic parity was no longer a top priority for Washington.

The collapse of the Soviet Union had left the United with 'disappropriationately' high responsibility for ensuring world

peace', Bush said, indicating that while Washington remained committed to easing military tension with Moscow, "I don't think it has to be done strictly on a parity basis."

In short, the United States appears to feel it can pursue us drive for Russia radically to cut its land-based multiplewarned strategic offensive mussiles — those that pose the greatest danger to the United States - while refusing to meet Russian demands for similar equal in US sealaunched strategic nuclear missiles.

Pak opposition demands Najibullah's freedom

ISLAMABAD, June 16: Appealing to Afghan Muslims for mercy, the party of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto asked them Tuesday to grant amnesty to fugitive former president Najibullah, reports

The former Communist leader has been hiding in the UN compound in Kabul, the Afghan capital, since he gave up power April 16.

"It's a question of human rights," said Khurshid Kasuri, secretary-general of Bhutto's People's Democratic Alliance Sibghatullah Mojaddedi,

leader of the caretaker government that replaced Najibullah's regime, has granted him amnesty but has been unable to guarantee him safe passage out of the country. His army is deeply divided about what to do with the former president. Many Afghans are demand-

ing that Najibullah, who was chief of the dreaded Khad sccret police for five years before being installed president in 1986, stand trial as a war criminal. "We are worried that while

Mojaddedi said he would grant Najibullah amnesty, nothing has happened. Obviously he is not in command," said Kasuri. Since taking power last

April, Mojaddedi has tried to unite a bitterly divided rebel resistance. After ending their war against Communism, warring rebel factions turned their guns on each other and killed or wounded at least 1,400 people and turning the streets of the capital into a battlefield.

US missile control sanctions on 21 states

WASHINGTON, June 16: The United States has announced fresh missile control sanctions against India, China, Iraq, North Korea and 17 other countries. The fresh missile control sanctions announced by the US Commerce Department yesterday, reports PTI.

10 Tigers killed as Lankan troops overrun camp

COLOMBO, June 16: Elite troops overran a small Tamil guerilla camp in eastern Sri Lanka killing at least 10 rebels, while security forces shot dead two more militants in the island's north, officials here said today. Army commandos killed 10 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerillas after storming the camp near Karadiyanaru in eastern Batticaloa district late Monday, a military spokesman said, reports AFP.

Earthquake shakes Japan

TOKYO, June 16: An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.4 on the Richter scale shock northern Japan today but no damage or injuries were immediately reported, the Japanese Meteorological Agency said, reports Reuter.

Economic policy

From Page 1 Col 7 told the seminar presided over by Communist Party leader

Refuting oft-repeated allegations that Bangladesh's budget was dictated by donors and that the budget he would place before parliament had been prepared at the Paris Consortium meeting, the minister said that his one would be an exception.

Satfuddin Ahmed Manik.

On the donors' intervention in framing policies, he said no finance minister would like to negotiate with them but it was unavoidable until the country attained self-reliance.

"It's a very, very tough mental exercise for a finance min-

But he argued that the regulatory role of the World Bank to some extent helped things go during the Ershad years, otherwise it would have been

Speaking on the government's economic policy, he said, "We're not absolutely for the market, nor for absolute state control ... we're in be-

"I don't believe that the state can do any good job ... l personally believe in market economy because control leads to corruption.

Rahman talked about taking good elements of market" but denounced the West's overemphasis on market economy saying "Market economy has been taken to the level of theology and there lies the dan-

While the Finance Minister emphasised on increased investments, Abdus Samad Azad criticised the government's being unable to ensure a congenial atmosphere for investment.

Azad was also critical of what he said the game of politics in economic management and called upon the ruling party to shun such an attitude.

Pointing to the poor investment situation, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud of the Dhaka University referred to the bank rate reduction. "Lowering of bank rate is the result of the decreasing demand in investment against the supply of savings," he said. Dr Atiur Rahman of BIDS

said: "In a country like ours budget can't be a balance-sheet of accounts...rather it should present a set of guiding principles based on consensus."

He stressed the need for ensuring "stability of economic policy based on political consensus" that has to be reflected in the media; in the press and

Khaleda, Azad

From Page 1 Col 7

AL policymakers are learnt to have nominated the party presidium member and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad to talk to the Prime Minister, AL Working Committee sources said. The leaders are likely to talk today. According to sources close

to AL policymakers, Samad Azad would put forward a fourpoint charter of demands to the Prime Minister for a smooth budget session this

The four-point demands include implementation of the verdict of the 'people's court' on Golam Azam, withdrawl of charges against 24 organisers of the 'people's court', ensuring due honour to the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and assurance of democratic behavior to the opposition parties

The four-point charter of demands has been formulated jointly by the leaders of AL, PDF and Five-party combine earlier.

When asked whether AL's joining the budget session of Parliament depends on the prior commitment of the ruling party to meet the demands, a senior AL leader, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star last night that AL was not taking such a hardline right at the moment.

in all spheres.

"Political framework, based on a consensus, is the key, not the resources" to develop ment in a developing country, the economist said.

Abdus Salam Khan, a leader of the Trade Union Centre. viewed that the 'core of the crisis is the management not the surplus labour."

Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal leader Nirmal Sen feared that the coming budget would be a "carbon copy" of the carlier budgets.

"If the political philosophy of the BNP is truly reflected in the budget, we have little to expect from it," he said. A noted economist Dr M A

Gafur said that the agreement between the government and the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad was yet to be implemented and that the government was not sincere about autonomy to the local government bodies.

National Awami Party leader Pankaj Bhattacharya said that the endangered economy of the country could not be salvaged without implementing the Joint Declaration of the three alliances. On the coming budget,

Bhattacharya said that the people of the country had a kind of fear about it. "In our country the most liable to taxation enjoy tax holi-

least assets pay the highest." Bangladesh Communist Party chief Saifuddin Ahmed Manik said that now the politi cal parties in the country

days while those having the

ought to ponder on their own economic development programmes. Basic economic issues had to be addressed through con-

sensus, he said. The speakers were all praise for the Finance Minister who, they said, though busy with budget preparations, broke tradition by agreeing to speak 'frankly' at the seminar only two days before its pre-

Stricter laws

From Page 1 Col 5

tutions under discipline. They said the law will also restore public confidence in such institutions and will help avoid any financial disaster.

The move comes in the

backdrop of the recent scandal involving Bangladesh Commerce and Investment (BCI) and National Credit Limited (NCL). The draft of the proposed

law has already been circulated to all the concerned ministries for comments on the provi-

After a review of the draft on the basis of the comments it will be sent to the Law Ministry for further scrutiny.

Road mishaps

From Page 1 Col 5

jured when a pick-up van collided with a passenger bus near Tongi Board Bazar Tuesday after noon. All of the victims were on the pick up van. They were

identified as Jamal, 35, Shafiq, 30, Abul Bashar, 40, Khorshed Alam, 32, and Haji Noor, 30, and were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). UNB adds: Fifteen people were injured when a truck

rammed into two shops at Doyamoyee crossing in Jamalpur town yesterday witnesses and police said. The Sherpur bound truck

was coming from Dhaka when it met with the accident in the morning. Of the injured, 10 were

sleeping in the two shops and five were travelling by the truck. Five workers of the shops were admitted to Sadar Hospital and others were given first aid. Police seized the truck but

the driver fled the scene immediately after the accident.

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