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Inside Today

Article

Wind of change blowing through World Bank and IMF

Letter from Washington by M Sayeduzzaman Page 4

International



President-elect Fidel Ramos sings with Malachanang palace choir Palestinian delegates to Mideast talks meet Arafat defying Israeli law Page 5

Business

Remaining part of budget speech Page 7

Rising Stars



Using and Abusing, Star Profile, On the Receiving End and Picture quiz Page 8

National

Jamuna erosion displaces 2000 in one week Page 9

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Rahima's story Page 3

One killed, 30 hurt in Adamjee clash

By Staff Correspondent

One person was shot dead and another 30 people injured in a bloody showdown between two rival groups of labourers in the Adamjee Jute Mills area Friday.

Siddhirganj police said that Kutty Mia (25) was killed and 30 workers of the mills were injured when the labourers belonging to the Rehan group and the Kashem group locked in a two-hour clash beginning at about 6 pm Friday.

They said seven people were rushed to Dhaka with serious bullet wounds while the rest were released after first aid at the local clinics and medical dispensaries.

According to our DMCIH correspondent, the dead man and four other injured persons were brought to the hospital with bullet wounds.

Kutty Mia lived at Char Sumtilpara village near the mills, about 15 kilometers south-east of the capital. The identity of the four injured are: Bholia Mia (22) with a bullet wound on his back, Aziz (19) with bullet in his right leg, Tajul Islam (30) with injuries on the right leg and Kamal Hossain (25) with injuries on right hand.

Our Narayanganj correspondent says that the clash, which ensued at about 6 in the evening Friday and continued till 8 pm, was a sequel to an earlier clash between the two groups on May 30 that left one labourer of the mills dead.

The fight began near the Moonlight Cinema near the jute mills and spread over to Kadamtali, Sumtilpara and Sona Mia market of the area.

Witnesses said more than 100 crackers were blasted while the feuding groups freely used sawed-up rifles, shot guns, pistols, daggers and ram daos in the battle.

The whole area was panic stricken as people began running at all directions and the shops shuttered.

Vehicular movement on the Demra-Narayanganj Road became suspended during the clash.

Rehan group has links with Awami League while Kashem Group is backed by the ruling BNP.

The Superintendent of Police in Narayanganj district, who visited the spot, told the Daily Star last night that the situation had been brought under control while security had

Duty on powdered milk not raised

By Staff Correspondent
Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said that the import duty on tinned powdered milk had not been increased in the proposed budget for 1992-93 as reported quoting the circulated text of his budget speech in Parliament.

Addressing a post-budget press conference in the Jatiya Sangsad premises, he said a decision had already been taken to withdraw the raised import duty on the item although an increase from the existing 25 per cent to 45 per cent was included in the text of the budget speech.

However, it was not deleted from the text of the budget speech distributed in Parliament, he added.

"I did not read that particular portion during my budget speech in Parliament," he assured.

The minister also added that the import duty on baby food had been decreased from the current 30 per cent to 15 per cent in the budget proposal.

Saifur says budget will help remove poverty trap

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said that the proposed budget for 1992-93 was geared towards making the economy "export-oriented and export-led" to bring about national development.

Addressing a crowded post-budget press conference at the committee room of the Jatiya Sangsad, the Minister also hoped that all boycotting opposition parties would join the ongoing budget session in Parliament.

"I would have been most satisfied if they (the opposition) had attended the opening budget session," he said while noting that it was the duty of both the government and the opposition to run the



Saifur addressing a post-budget press conference yesterday. —PID photo

Writ against Tinbigha corridor

CALCUTTA, June 19: A writ application was moved today before Justice Ruma Pal of the Calcutta High Court, challenging the legality of the government of West Bengal for the construction of a corridor at Tinbigha in Coochbehar district of West Bengal, reports PTI.

The petition, moved by Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar on behalf of Monmohann Roy, President, Kuchibari Sangram Committee, under Article 226 of the constitution, prayed for an ad-interim order staying the impugned proceedings sought to have been initiated under the land requisition and acquisition act in Tinbigha.

The writ was opposed by Naro Narayan Goopit, Advocate General, West Bengal, who appeared for the state of West Bengal, saying that the petitioner had no locus standi to

See Page 12 Col 4



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the Grand National Convention '92 of engineers, agriculturists, doctors and Bangladesh Civil Service Coordination Committee at Engineers' Institution yesterday. —PID photo

All cadre services equal in democratic system: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said her government wants to build up a dynamic, development-oriented and science and technology-based administration for achieving self-reliance in every sector, reports UNB.

"We have many works to do, we have to break the poverty cycle, arrange dal-bhat for the poor people, give them jobs, health, and education facilities," she told a grand conference of doctors, engineers and agriculturists here in the afternoon.

"We don't want to lag behind anymore," said the Prime

Minister while inaugurating the two-day conference.

Emphasising the need for production oriented and efficient manpower, innovation and development of appropriate technology for breaking the shackles of dependence, she said the country has the potential to overcome the backwardness.

Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) president Dr M A Mazed chaired the inaugural function at the Engineers' Institute.

It was also addressed by Bangladesh Civil Services

DU reopens today: Teachers on strike

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University reopens today (Saturday) after ten days' Eid-ul-Azha vacation.

But the classes will not be held since the teachers of the university are on indefinite strike since June 6 following the assault on Professor Dr Badrul Alam of Physics Department by a third year student, Ansar Ali.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) at an emergency meeting of its working committee held at the Dhaka University Club yesterday evening decided to participate in the discussion meet-

See Page 12 Col 6

Reaction to budget proposals

Agri-subsidy cut under fire

By Staff Correspondent

Handsome allocation for the education and health sector and the tax reform measures were hailed by most of the business and professional groups, political parties and organisations in the post budget reaction. However, most of them were critical about the reduction of subsidy from the agriculture sector.

A number of professional groups and business organisations also mentioned that the proposed budget had not enough incentive to attract people for investment.

President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) M Yunus at a discussion meeting on the proposed national budget said that the matter pertaining to the protection of the local industries had not been given much importance in the new budget.

He said there was hardly any incentive for investment in industry in the proposed budget. Unfortunately, there was hardly any provision in the

budget for implementing the policies included in the industrial policy of the country. He said the proposed enhancement rate of land development tax would certainly hinder the growth of industries.

The DCCI president, however, hailed the budget for providing a dynamic tax administration that, according to him, would ensure revenue earnings if it was implemented properly.

M Yunus felt that no tax on dividend income should be imposed in the interest of investment and industrialisation.

The benefit of tax reduction as shown in the budget appeared to be inconsistent in some cases, the DCCI president said, adding that tax had been reduced on some construction materials like cement, whereas new tax had been proposed on its raw material called clinker.

He, however, suggested removal of the inconsistencies. UNB says: Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (MCCI) has praised most of the proposals made in the new budget but expressed concern at the absence of adequate provisions for protecting local industries.

"Tax structural changes, simplification of procedural matters, reduction of tax rates and deregulation proposed in the budget are bold steps in right direction," said a statement signed by MCCI President Morshed Khan.

But, it pointed out that adequate attention had not been given to protect local industries, especially in view of significant reduction in tariffs and import duties on finished products. The trade body called for taking appropriate steps to safeguard the interest of local industries.

Hailing the projection of a larger ADP size than current expenditures, the MCCI said that this would reverse the long term declining trend in public investment.

It also appreciated exemp-



Prof Rehman Sobhan addressing a seminar organised by Democratic Forum in city yesterday. Story on page 12 —Star photo

AL terms budget 'prescription' of int'l agencies

Awami League termed the national budget for 1992-93 "a prescription" of some international agencies and said it will further increase the country's dependence as well as the number of hapless people, reports UNB.

The party's primary reaction on the proposed budget came at its central working committee meeting held yesterday at 29 Minto Road with Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

A resolution of the meeting said that the Finance Minister had produced the next year's budget without considering its side effects and long term development plan.

The budget is full of contradictions and inconsistency," the resolution said adding that it will not help remove poverty, unemployment and dependence on others.

The government also predicted increased growth, employment, investment and production as well as removal of poverty while announcing the last budget, the meeting

See Page 12 Col 8

FM terms Rio summit a beginning of progress

Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman returned here yesterday after attending the Earth Summit and called the first ever massive conference on environment as the "event of the century", reports BSS.

"It was a momentous occasion that would usher in a new era of cooperation on an issue crucial to our survival," he told newsmen at the airport.

The Foreign Minister, who led the Bangladesh delegation to the 12-day summit, said the occasion provided an opportunity to the developing and least developed countries to air their plight caused by environmental degradation.

Furthermore, he said, this also brought all nations across the globe to discuss alarmingly emerging issues that posed to scuttle the very existence of the planet.

Rahman noted that the unanimity at the summit that serious environmental changes could spell disasters of terrible proportions had been a big achievement.

He said the attainment of the conference could not be

measured in terms of concrete gains since it was the beginning of progress on such issues whose adverse effects could be minimised only through concerted endeavour.

The Foreign Minister stressed that whatever gains accomplished at the summit must be followed up for securing a safer planet.

Bangladesh, he said, drew the attention of the summit to the problems that stemmed from environmental degradation.

As a lower riparian country, Rahman emphasised, Bangladesh bore the brunt of shortage of water and that the problem had been well appreciated.

The Foreign Minister, during his stay at Rio de Janeiro, discussed the Rohingya refugee issue with his Myanmar counterpart U Ohn Gya and also with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, S Ogata.

Rahman said the refugee issue also figured prominently during his discussions with the United States Deputy Secre-

Call to observe dawn-to-dusk hartal tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

A dawn-to-dusk hartal has been called throughout the country tomorrow (Sunday) to press the government for accepting a five-point charter of demand including execution of the Gano Adalat verdict on the controversial Jamaat leader Golan Azam and ban on the politics by the communal forces including the Jamaat-Islami party.

The National Coordination Committee for Realisation of the Spirit of the Liberation War and Resistance to the Killers and Collaborators of 1971 gave the hartal call on expiry of its one-month deadline set for acceptance of their demands by the government.

Meantime, major political parties including Awami League, the Patriotic Democratic Front, the Five-Party Combine, several factions of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and various professional groups, trade union bodies and socio-cultural organisations have extended their allout support to the hartal call.

Different political parties

See Page 12 Col 5

Call for half day hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

A countrywide half day hartal has been called today (Saturday) jointly by Jatiya Juba Command and Bharatiyo Dalal Protirodh Committee in demand of legal actions against the sponsors of public trial of Jamaat chief Golan Azam.

In support of today's hartal, both the organisations held rallies that paraded the city streets yesterday.

Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir, Freedom Party and Prototisheel Ganotantrik Party have supported the six-hour hartal from 6 am.