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## Inside Today

### Sport



American Andre Agassi wins Wimbledon men's singles title

Zelezny sets world javelin record  
 Pages 10,11

### Article

Aid to the West will top the G-7 agenda  
 Page 4

### International

Rao to face no-confidence vote



The proposed Prime Minister of Poland Hanna Sochocka was greeted at Warsaw Airport on Saturday on her arrival from London  
 Page 5

### Feature

#### Banking and Finance

How 1973 Oil Shock Shocked the World  
 Bombay Broker Rocks India's Banking System  
 Page 8

### Business

Future assistance depends on socio-economic condition  
 Pages 6, 7

### Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



The Rhythmic Flow of Visual Narration  
 Page 3

### National

Water-logging may leave 10,000 acres uncultivated  
 Page 9

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Raghnath meets Hasina

Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh K Raghnath Sunday called on Leader of the Opposition and Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina at her Sangsad office. General Secretary of the party Sajeda Chowdhury MP was also present during the meeting, reports UNB.

### Businessman stabbed

By DMCH Correspondent  
 A Businessman was stabbed and robbed of Taka 16,000 at Bakhshi Bazar area in the city early Sunday. The victim, Iqbal Hossain Lashkar, 41, was going home at Abdul Aziz Lane from Sayedabad Bus Terminal by a rickshaw at around 4 am and muggers stabbed him and fled away with the money.

## HC verdict on Rima murder

# Munir to die, Khuku set free

Supreme Court Correspondent



Munir



Rima



Khuku

The High Court Division upheld the death sentence of Munir Hossain, but acquitted Hossain Ara Khuku of the charges in the Rima murder case of 1989.

The judgement was delivered by Justice Badruzzaman with whom Justice Md Ruhul Amin concurred. It took two days for the court to deliver judgement which concluded yesterday at 4.53 pm.

Sharmin alias Rima, daughter of Shaheed journalist Nizamuddin was killed on April 8, 1989. Her husband Munir Hossain alias Suruj 32 and his alleged paramour Hossain Ara alias Khuku, 38 were found guilty by Sessions Judge, Dhaka who awarded their death sentence on May 21, 1990.

Against the said judgement Munir and Khuku preferred

two jail appeals and two criminal appeals. The death reference also came up for approval of the High Court Division. These matters were heard and disposed of by a single judgement. The hearing commenced on May 17, and concluded on July 1.

The Court observed that the prosecution had failed to prove the allegation against Khuku for instigating Munir to murder Rima. The Court further observed that prosecution only relied upon the statement of Mrs Kohinoor Nizam that Khuku told Rima that she

would see who would win and who would lose. The court observed that though this statement appears to have been corroborated by Munir in his confessional statement but the confessional statement of the co-accused is not conclusive.  
 See Page 12 Col 8

## Situation improved, Matin tells JS

# Hasina demands discussion on law and order

By Staff Correspondent

Sheikh Hasina yesterday in Parliament requested the Speaker of the House to specially allow a general discussion on the present law and order situation of the country during the budget session.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League (AL) chief Hasina made this appeal following repeated claims from Opposition MPs that law and order had seriously deteriorated and in view of the Home Minister's continued refusal to accept the Opposition's statement on the issue.

Since there was no provision for allowing a general discussion on any issue during the budget session of parliament, Sheikh Hasina urged the Speaker to use his discretionary power for allowing MPs to discuss the issue and thus find out ways and means of getting rid of the 'unbearable' situation. The Speaker, however, did not give any decision on the matter yesterday.

The 70 minutes arguments and counter arguments on the issue between the Opposition MPs and Home Minister Abdul

See Page 12 Col 4

## Jute and textile workers stage sit-in

By Staff Correspondent

Several thousand jute and textile workers Sunday marched towards the Jatiya Sangsad and staged a sit-in to press their demands to stop denationalisation of mills and factories and labour retrenchments.

Police stopped processionists at the Bangla Motor Square placing barbed wire road blocks but allowed their leaders to hand over the memorandum to the Prime Minister, Opposition Leader, Speaker and eight other parliamentary party chiefs at Jatiya Sangsad.

A special division of the riot police in bullet proof jackets were deployed at the area fearing trouble. However, the workers were disciplined and no untoward incident occurred.

All the approaches linking Bangla Motor Square remained closed for a couple of hours because of the march creating traffic jam in adjoining areas.

Abul Bashar, Convenor of the Jute and Textile Workers Action Council which called the Sangsad march, led the 14-member delegation to the Parliament.

The delegation included Iqbal Majumder, Lutfar Rahman, S M Rumi, Sirajul Islam, Sharjatuallah, Shah Alam, Nasu Mian, Badrul Alam Lablu, and Kashimuddin.

At the parliament the workers' leaders handed over the copies of memorandum to the Speaker, Opposition Leader, and other leaders and

See Page 12 Col 7



Jute and textile workers held a rally in front of the National Press Club yesterday.—Star photo

## War of words over Flag Rules in JS

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Flag Rules came up for a heated discussion yesterday at Parliament with Treasury benchers and the Opposition crossing each other.

Rising on a point of order, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Minister for Information, wanted to know from the Speaker how Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition was using the national flag in his car while going to the US Embassy party on July 4.

Huda told the House that he was informing the matter as a rule of principle and wanted to know what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was doing.

Reading out passages from the flag rules the Minister said that the matter should be explained. He also made some comments about Samad Azad which agitated the Opposition benchers.

Replying to Huda's comments, Tofael Ahmed of Awami League (AL) stood up to say that flag rules were applicable to everyone.

Referring to newspaper reports, Tofael said the Prime Minister was using a national flag of the size entitled by the President and was using state emblem which were not done.

Tofael also referred to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and said Mujib had no military secretary nor any ADC. But our PM, mak-

ing the President a puppet, was using all facilities due to the President, he added.

He also commented that by doing so the PM was violating the law of the republic.

Explaining the protocol of the Prime Minister, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House said in a parliamentary democracy the PM was entitled to highest honour. He further added that the PM was using PM's emblem.

At this stage, some of the AL MPs stood up to say something about the Speaker, trying to force the Speaker to discuss the issue in his chamber.

The Speaker's request, however, failed to stop Mohammad Nasim, Chief Whip of the Opposition. Taking leave to speak for a moment, Nasim said the PM was not the head of the state, but the emblem she was using was the state emblem. He added 'what was written on the emblem was not important, but the issue was its use.'

Nasim's statement prompted Huda to give a reply. After much insistence the Speaker allowed him to say.

Huda, in his turn, repeated his words that as a lawyer he was interested in upholding the law.

After his statement the House was adjourned

## Govt-SKOP dialogue continues

By Staff Correspondent

The 48-hours strike of the workers and employees is scheduled to start from Tuesday while the government is continuing a dialogue with the leaders to avert it, sources concerned said Sunday.

The Sramik Karmachari Otkya Parishad (SKOP) called the strike to press its five-point demand which include halting of retrenchment plan of some one and half lakh employees and denationalisation process, publishing of wage commission report, and the amendment of industrial relation ordinance.

The strike if started would affect the functioning in government and non-government

sectors including mills, factories and communication. SKOP sources said that there was a slight development during Sunday's meeting as the government agreed with the Parishad on some major points and promised to continue the talks.

The source said that the authorities asked SKOP to draft a negotiation deed which may be finalised at the next round of talks to be held today at 11 am at the Kakrafi Srana Bhaban.

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam were present at the Sunday's meeting from the

government side while SKOP leaders Abdus Salam Khan, Nazrul Islam Khan, Shajahan Khan MP, Dr Wazedul Islam, Shafigur Rahman Majumder, Abdullah Sarker, Tipu Biswas, Pratabuddin Ahmed, Shah Atiul Islam and Mesbauddin Ahmed were present among others.

'We are optimistic about the negotiation but the situation still remains unpredictable,' a senior leader of the SKOP told The Daily Star.

We always tried to avoid the strike but not at the cost of the demands — a life and death question of the millions of workers and employees, he said.

The leader said that some

two million workers and employees belonging to 18 federations under the banner of SKOP were ready to join the strike if the demands are not met.

The ministers concerned were not available for comments.

According to the late night report the SKOP leaders held an unscheduled meeting with the Labour and Manpower Minister at his residence.

The outcome of the meeting was not known as it was continuing till midnight.

Meanwhile, local units of SKOP held a rally Sunday afternoon at Nabisco crossing  
 See Page 12 Col 3

## Govt has full control over NGOs: Salam

By Staff Correspondent

Members of the Parliament, both from the Treasury bench and the Opposition, Sunday asked to know if the non-government voluntary organisations were working as alternative to the government in various places of the country and were hampering government development efforts.

Floating various supplementary questions, the MPs alleged that a section of NGOs were working 'like the government' at some places and development works carried out by them were being overlapped.

In response to these queries, LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder told the

House that he had no knowledge about the programmes of the NGOs at any place of the country which was alternative to the government or against the public interest.

Rashed Mosharraf of Awami League alleged that working of a section of NGOs at many places appeared that the government had no control over them.

Nizamuddin Khan of BNP suggested involvement of the local MPs to oversee the development programmes initiated by the NGOs.

Mirza Azam (AL-Jamalpur) wanted to know if the NGOs  
 See Page 12 Col 1

## Seen from the Gallery

By Sabir Mustafa

THERE is something almost inevitable about Minister for Information Nazmul Huda these days, especially when he takes the floor in the House. The Opposition becomes alert, sensing trouble; Treasury benchers put away their newspapers and magazine, fearing the same.

The sense of impending Pandemonium was heightened yesterday when the minister made a dramatic introduction to his speech.

'I am worried and confused, Mr Speaker', he began. Huda's confusion and worries centred around, as he narrated to an engrossed House, his discovery at a US embassy  
 See Page 12 Col 1

## Budget: Remarks by ministers displease BNP MPs

By Special Correspondent

Members of Parliament, belonging to the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), have taken exception to the comments by Shamsul Islam Khan, Minister for Industries and Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Textiles, on the national budget.

BNP MPs expressed their dismay and concern at the meeting of the parliamentary party held yesterday with Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House in the chair. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia did not attend the meeting as she was not feeling well.

The comments of the ministers, carried yesterday by national dailies, were made at a post-budget open discussion organized by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) on Saturday.

Comparing their situation to a 'caged bird' the ministers reportedly criticised some of the provisions of the budget and observed that their respective ministry's recommendations were not reflected.

These and other comments of the ministers came up for discussion in the meeting of the parliamentary party. MPs participating in the discussion felt that such statements were enough to tarnish the image of  
 See Page 12 Col 3

## Ctg tense: 30 hurt Clashes follow death of Jubo League leader

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 5: Sporadic clashes erupted today in the port city as tension flared following the death of a Jubo League leader.

According to witnesses, the clashes left at least 30 persons injured as activists of two rival political groups used lethal weapons and blasted dozens of crackers.

Chase, counter chase, brandishing of sticks and explosion of crackers mark the clashes that took place mainly at Sobujbag of Halfshahar, Goshaldanga and Kutcha road crossing under Doublemooring PS this morning.

A number of the injured were admitted to various city clinics for treatment.

Being informed police rushed to the spot and brought  
 See Page 12 Col 8

## Scimitar PRO held

Plaincloth police Sunday arrested Reazur Rahman, Public Relations Officer of Scimitar Oil Exploration Company, in a forgery case, reports UNB.

A special squad of the city Special Branch, acting on information, picked up the Scimitar PRO from Bangla Motor area yesterday afternoon.

He went into hiding after the arrest of Muslim Lakhani, Vice Chairman and Director of Scimitar Exploration Limited. Reazur Rahman was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail with 120 days' detention.

## Angel, Liaquat sent to jail

By Court Correspondent

Both the Danish and the Bangladesh nationals arrested in connection with antique-smuggling case were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court Sunday and sent to the Dhaka Central Jail.

The Dane, Georgen Emile Angel and the Bangladeshi, M. Liaquat Ali, were accused of smuggling century old antiques worth about Tk one crore and arrested at Zia International Airport on July 2. Angel was on way to Denmark with the antiques.

Angel was an employee of a

Non-Government Organization in Bangladesh while his accomplice, Liaquat, was an employee of a local clearing and forwarding agency.

After arrest, Angel and Liaquat were taken on one-day police remand at Cantonment Police Station for questioning which also ended yesterday.

Solicitors moved bail petitions on behalf of the accused persons but the Magistrate rejected the bail prayer and ordered to send them to the jail custody.



Emile Angel being sent to Jail yesterday.—Star photo

## Rivals clash in AJM

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, July 5: Police fired gunshots and lobbed tear gas shells to prevent a group of workers from attacking their rivals, protesting yesterday's armed clashes, at the Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) compound this afternoon.

Nobody was, however, hurt in the police action.

According to witnesses, the police action followed hurling of crackers, allegedly by activists of the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, from the Dhaka Baju Colony of the AJM when the Awami League-backed Jatiya Sramik League workers were passing through the area after attending a protest rally.

The AJM unit of Patali Sramik Sangram Parishad organised the rally to protest

yesterday's triangular armed clashes among the supporters of ruling BNP and opposition Awami League and Jatiya Party. The nine-hour-long clashes that began at mid-night Friday left a school student dead and over 50 others injured.

The Sramik Dal activists who ousted their Sramik League rivals from the Dhaka Baju Colony yesterday reportedly blasted at least 50 crackers, witnesses said.

Police fired 11 rounds of gunshots and 13 rounds of tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

Saturday's gunbattle was fought for control over the Dhaka Baju Colony, a stronghold of AL's Rehan group of AJM workers.

See Page 12 Col 7