

Discussion on budget

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 ffective opposition has a role to play," he added.

Tofael Ahmed of the Awami League said that the present budget was the best one of the far presented so far by the Finance Minister.

Tofael observed that the objectives of the budget were good but that there were no indications on how to achieve those objectives.

Praising the Finance Minister for his honesty and hard work, Tofael accused the minister of selling the country to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He wanted to know why the terms dictated by donors were not disclosed to them and urged the Treasury bench to take the House into confidence.

Tofael further said that in line with the review for donors there should be a mid-term discussion on the budget around January or February.

Brushing aside criticisms of the Treasury bench Tofael said that against all odds the Awami League government had done well immediately after independence. He gave lengthy details of how the Awami League government in those days managed the affairs of the state.

Referring to Zia and Ershad, the Awami League leader said that Zia corrupted politics and Ershad destroyed the country.

Accusing the Prime Minister, Tofael said that during the current session she did not rise on a single occasion to say anything. He added that it would be better if she could tell the House what she said outside.

Taking the floor next, Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Aviation defined a budget and said that before criticising a budget one should try to understand it.

Quoting from statistics Mannan effectively portrayed the need to develop the economy.

He said that the present budget was an attempt to switch over from a rent-seeking system to a tax seeking system.

Shahjahan Siraj, leader of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) severely criticised the government for "its devotion to

the so-called free market economy."

The JSD leader said that the slogan for a free market economy was virtually a campaign of the rich nations of the world against the economic interests of the Third World countries including Bangladesh.

"The rich countries of the world, especially the seven-nation group, propagated the slogan of the free market economy just to sell their products in the Third World countries," the JSD leader remarked adding, "It is confusing whether the Finance Minister is representing Bangladesh or countries belonging to Group-7."

The proposed budget would definitely go against the interest of the common people, Shahjahan Siraj believed.

The text of the proposed budget give us the hint that the Finance Minister is busy satisfying the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) so that he can manage a fat salary job when his tenure as Finance Minister is over," Shahjahan Siraj commented.

He further said that government should come forward to solving the national problems including the deteriorating law and order, unemployment and problems stemming from the Farakka barrage etc. on a priority basis.

Those who took part in the deliberations yesterday included Shamsudhoha (CPB), Farida Hasan (BNP), Shahjahan Omar (BNP), Mohiuddin Ahmed (AL), Selina Shahid (BNP), Sultan Kabir Chowdhury (BNP), Mohammad Ishaq (AL), Begum Asia Rahman (BNP), Nazrul Islam (AL), Alamgir Kabir (BNP), Azharul Islam (AL), Nure Alam Chowdhury Liton (AL), Abdur Rouf (AL) and Bir Bahadur (AL).

The House was in session when the reports last came in.

Two killed in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

A young woman and a minor girl were killed and another woman was seriously injured in two separate incidents in Dhaka and Narayanganj Saturday.

An eight-year-old girl, Shahnaj, was killed and her mother, Parveen (25), was seriously injured when a train ran over them near Kamalapur Railway Station in the city at around noon yesterday.

When the train was about to hit Shahnaj, her mother, Parveen, jumped on the rail line to save her. But the train crushed the minor girl and cut off both the hands of her mother.

Shahnaj's body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while her mother was admitted there.

In another incident, a 17-year old housewife, Momtaj Begum, who reportedly hanged herself to commit suicide at her residence at Fatullah, Narayanganj, was admitted to the DMCH in critical condition Friday. She succumbed to her injuries Saturday.

Momtaj's body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

ME peace talks in Washington next month

JERUSALEM, July 25: Arab-Israeli peace talks will resume in Washington at the end of August rather than in the proposed venue of Rome, Israeli radio said today, reports AFP.

Political sources here said US Secretary of State James Baker, the architect of the peace talks, wants to be able to supervise them in Washington from where he will run George Bush's re-election campaign, the radio said.

Baker, touring the Middle East this week, denied press reports that he had decided to leave the State Department to run Bush's campaign. The unconfirmed radio report suggested Baker could do both jobs.

Teesta erosion

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Eye witnesses said the erosion has already washed away cultivable land and houses and posed a threat to some 16 thousand people who have just received a new taste of life following implementation of the 1974 land boundary agreement signed between Bangladesh and India at the level of Prime Ministers.

While travelling the enclaves after entering there through the regulated entry of the just-opened Tinbigha corridor, the BSS correspondent was told by local people that the erosion of the Teesta was due to the regulation of its upstream at certain places in India.

He also quoted from Nazrul to justify his arguments and it pleased Sajeda Chowdhury of the Awami League so much that she rose to thank the Minister for his speech.



Police guarding Habibullah Bahar College following a violent clash at the college compound yesterday. — Star photo

Armed clash at Habibullah Bahar College: 5 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

A clash between two armed groups at Habibullah Bahar College in Shantinagar in the city Saturday morning left at least five people injured, one of them seriously.

Javed, a student of the college, sustained bullet injuries and was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. His condition was said to be critical.



Javed—Star photo

The clash ensued when a group of armed men arrived in front of the college and opened fire indiscriminately at around 11:00 am yesterday and were chased by another group from the college.

Both the groups exploded crackers and opened fire at each other during the half-hour chase and counter-chase. A source said that the clash occurred between two factions of a student organisation of the college. It was the sequel to a previous feud between the two factions, the source added.

When contacted, Ramna police said, no complaint was made in the police station in connection with the incident.

Clash at AJM

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gas shells to disperse the rioting workers.

The situation came under control at about 11:30 in the morning.

The 15 injured were released after being given first-aid from local dispensaries and clinics.

Police said none was arrested during the clash while the AJM authorities said prosecution was not hampered.

Three people were killed during the last three months in as many as 100 clashes between the rival workers' groups of AJM.

Iraq's Arab allies split over conflict with UN

JORDAN, July 25: Iraq's Arab neighbours appeared divided Saturday over Baghdad's confrontation with the United Nations, reports AP.

Jordan, which was cast as pro-Iraqi during the Gulf conflict following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait two years ago, called for a peaceful, diplomatic solution.

But countries in the Gulf, which allied against Saddam in the war, took a harder line.

"Jordan is against any military escalations or confrontations and our position has not changed since the beginning of the Gulf crisis," Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif said. "What is needed now is a calm political solution to the conflict."

"We have not heard before of a war being launched, where innocent children, women and men get killed for the sake of only searching a ministry," Sharif said.

Saudi Arabia's ambassador to London also favoured continued negotiations but said his country would do its part to help the allies in event of an allied military strike.

"I don't think diplomacy should ever be given up on. This is giving way to despair. Even when nations engage in war, they continue diplomacy," Ambassador Ghazi Alqozhabi said in a television interview Friday night in Britain.

Delhi-Beijing closed-door military talks

experts.

BEIJING, July 25: Indian Defence Minister Sharad Pawar held closed-door talks Saturday with his Chinese counterpart at the start of the highest-level military contact ever between the former enemies, reports AP.

Neither side would disclose the content of the talks between Defence Minister Qin Jiwei and Pawar, the first Indian defence minister to come to China.

They were believed to have discussed measures to reduce tensions on the two countries' mountainous border, still heavily guarded on both sides. India and China fought a border war in 1962 and relations remained strained until Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Beijing in 1988.

Since then, the two sides have begun talks on resolving their border dispute.

Pawar arrived Friday night accompanied by Defence Secretary N N Vohra and border

Export shortfall: EPC on raw jute may go

The government is actively considering withdrawal of export price check (EPC) on raw jute in view of export shortfall during the last financial year, reports UNI.

Jute export in 1991-92 is estimated at 15.33 lakh bales as against the target of 18 lakh bales.

Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA) sources said the target could not be achieved due to the export price restriction. Trade delegation from Pakistan that visited Dhaka recently had discussion with the Jute Minister about the disadvantages of EPC and suggested its withdrawal. Pakistan is one of the largest buyers of raw jute from Bangladesh.

BJA sources said export sales of more than 6 lakh bales of jute were registered in four months from August to November 1991 when EPC was not in force.

Construction of temple stops today

NEW DELHI, July 25: The BJP today claimed that the party had moved 'one step forward' towards the construction of temple at the Ram Janambhumi in Ayodhya, reports PTI.

The BJP President, Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, told a news conference here the sadhus have decided to stop construction work by tomorrow within the disputed site for three months pending a judgement in court over the dispute.

He said all those, particularly the political leaders who thwarted the construction process at Ayodhya had been defeated.

He said the VIP and sadhus were satisfied by the response of the Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao to queries raised by them during their talks and accordingly decided to stop construction at the disputed areas. They would however continue it the disputed site.

The decision of the religious leaders comes at the end of 16 days of high drama, suspense tension with, at times, apprehension of a possible confrontation and large scale violence.

The DU authorities, at the meeting, also criticised the 'inactive' role of the police.

He said that children were more vulnerable than adults to jaundice.

Dr Khan said that if the Hepatitis vaccine was included in the Expanded Programme for Immunisation (EPI) it would be possible to eradicate the virus. The vaccine is not readily available in a developing country like Bangladesh, he added.

Ties with Nigeria to be strengthened, PM tells envoy

The Nigerian High Commissioner concurrently accredited to Bangladesh and India, Ernest Oladegbawo Adefemiwa, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday, reports BSS.

The High Commissioner conveyed greetings from his president to Begum Khaleda Zia and the people of Bangladesh.

He said his country would also switch over to democracy through elected representatives including the election of head of the government by early next year.

The High Commissioner emphasised closer economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Prime Minister hoped that during his tenure as the High Commissioner the relationship between Bangladesh and Nigeria would further be strengthened and consolidated. She said exchange of visits by political, cultural, trade and sport delegations would help strengthen the two countries relationship.

Begum Zia mentioned that the democratic government had liberalised the industrial policy and was encouraging foreign investment and development of private sector. She said joint collaborations in trade and investment fields will be encouraged.

She said Bangladesh could contribute to the development of Nigeria by providing doctors, engineers and other technical personnel.

She assured all help and cooperation for success of the High Commissioner during his tenure.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Syed Hasan Ahmed was present.

Industrial units

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ordination between the Finance Ministry and the Industries Ministry as cases are being filed against many of these industries identified as sick.

In another development, the Finance Ministry noted that the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) cannot make profit and pay bonus to the employees as disbursement of working capital to the industrial sector is insignificant, according to a concerned source.

The number of closed sick units is estimated to be about 12,000 in the country.

BCL

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faction, known as the Barisal group, fired several rounds from the Jagannath Hall area, the sources added.

During the exchange of gunshots, general students were seen running helter-skelter and normal life on the campus and the Plassey, Nilkhet and Fuller Road areas was disrupted.

Residents of these halls were tense, fearing further violence.

Earlier on July 21, the DU authorities held a joint meeting with teachers' representatives to the senate, syndicate members, provosts, proctors, deans and some other officials to discuss the prevailing situation on the campus and apprehended that it might deteriorate.

The DU authorities, at the meeting, also criticised the 'inactive' role of the police.

Jaundice

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spread through contaminated food and water, cause jaundice in the epidemic form during floods and in the dry season.

The Hepatitis B virus is malignant and leads to liver cirrhosis or cancer and causes liver failure if not timely detected or treated.

It spreads through contaminated needles or syringes, infected blood transfusions or physical contacts (sexual or oral), they said.

Dr Khan said that 90 per cent of the people in our country, for at least once in their life time, have been attacked by the Hepatitis virus. Ten per cent of them became virus carriers.

Virus C, discovered in the United States in 1989 is as harmful as Virus B and may cause liver failure. Virus F has recently been discovered and its behaviour and mode of spreading are still under study, Dr Khan said.

He said that children were more vulnerable than adults to jaundice.

Dr Khan said that if the Hepatitis vaccine was included in the Expanded Programme for Immunisation (EPI) it would be possible to eradicate the virus. The vaccine is not readily available in a developing country like Bangladesh, he added.

Besides, more care should be taken in sanitation, supply of safe drinking water and hygienic sewerage system, Prof Khan added.

The Midnight File

PDA to hold rally defying govt ban

KARACHI, July 25: Pakistan's Opposition Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA) said here today it would hold a protest rally here next week, defying a government ban on assemblies of more than four people in Karachi. Syed Qaim Ali Shah, PDA leader in the Sindh provincial assembly, said permission for the rally had been applied for to press demands that the present provincial government had lost its majority, reports AFP.

Giant Ataturk Dam on Euphrates

BOZOVA (Turkey), July 25: Turkey on Saturday inaugurated the giant Ataturk Dam on the Euphrates, tightening its grip on water resources that are widely expected to be a chief source of international disputes. The Dam, built near Bozova, about 44 miles (71 kilometers) north of the Syrian border, went into partial operation to the accompaniment of fireworks. Two 300-megawatt turbines started churning out electricity, reports AP.

Olympics open

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were on hand, along with a flamenco dancer in purple shoes who was scheduled to end her performance by running down the steep steps from the stage and riding off on a horse with her lover.

And of course, there's the athletes — more than 10,000 from a record 171 countries.

Most were to march under the familiar colours of their country's flags. Others could not.

South Africa, at its first Olympics since 1960, prepared a special Olympics flag because anti-apartheid groups associate the national banner with the country's long-held policy of enforced racial segregation.

A dozen former Soviet Republics — the United Team for a fragmented country — were to rally around the five-ring Olympic flag.

The crowd awaited the Olympic flame, brought from Greece on a 5,950-kilometer (3,690-mile) odyssey, one of the longest in the history of the modern Games.

In keeping with hellenic tradition, the flame was lit in early June by the sun's rays reflecting off a concave mirror in Olympia, Greece, home of the

Two robberies

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Moqsud Alam, a distributor of Lever Brothers Bangladesh Limited told The Daily Star, a group of armed men stormed the office at around 11 am Saturday, beat him, snatched away the key of the steel-chest and looted Taka 52,000 in cash.

Maqsud said the seven-member band of robbers had revolvers, pistols and sawed-off rifles.

Agrani Bank

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Two people, Mohammed Mandar (46) and Mandar Ahmed (27) were arrested by police at about 3 pm today.

Sonadanga police said the miscreants entered the bank through a ventilator and broke open the grill gate of the strong room before decamping with cash Taka 1,79,478, prize bond of Taka 20,720, revenue stamp of Taka 356 and a calculator.

There was no security guard at the bank during the dacoity.

The miscreants who also ransacked the entire office, however, left behind the double barrel gun and four rounds of ammunition which were also inside the strong room.

Hasina

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lades and urged the United States to maintain increased assistance to the developmental efforts of Bangladesh.

The leader of the opposition met World Bank Vice President D J Wood and discussed the World Bank affairs related to Bangladesh.

During the meeting, she was accompanied by Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP, Abul Hasnat Abdullah MP and Professor Abdul Mannan MP.

Sheikh Hasina also attended a number of functions organised by the Bangladeshi living in the United States, the press release said.

To Our Agents

The Management of The Daily Star has sent reminders to all its Agents to clear their dues by July 27, 1992.

We shall be constrained to stop supply of The Daily Star to the defaulting agents from July 28, 1992 unless the dues are paid within the scheduled date.

We seek cooperation from all our valued Agents.

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