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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Zoinul Abedin, MP hospitalised

Zoinul Abedin, a ruling party MP from a Noakhali constituency, was admitted to Holy Family Hospital yesterday with serious ailment, family sources said. He is under the treatment of Dr Habibur Rahman, reports UNB.

#### 368 more Rohingyas repatriated

Another batch of 368 Rohingya Muslim refugees comprising 88 families were repatriated yesterday to Myanmar. This is the 46th batch of refugees returned home raising the total to 25,017. They were sent back home through Rangkhali and Nayapara transit camps under supervision of relief and UNHCR officials, reports UNB.

#### Rickshawpuller shot dead in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, May 19: A rickshawpuller was shot dead by some miscreants at Budischar area in Hathazari thana Sunday night. Police said a gang of miscreants entered the house of Forkan Ahmed and tried to violate his wife forcibly. When Forkan resisted them the miscreants opened fire on him. He died on the way to hospital. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy, reports UNB.

## Khaleda tells public meeting in Gazaria

# Discard hartals to ensure production

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday sought people's active cooperation in the smooth continuation of her government's ongoing development trend, reports BSS. Addressing a big public meeting in Gazaria thana headquarters premises Wednesday afternoon, she also urged all quarters to shun petty differences and the path of hartal and agitational action programmes.

"On the one hand we are to work more and on the other discard hartals to ensure production and development," the

Prime Minister told the audience.

Presided over by Fazlul Karim Mollah, president Gazaria Thana BNP, the meeting was addressed among others by Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khandaker Musarrat Hossain, Food Minister M Shamsul Islam, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye, M Hamidullah Khan MP, Rezaul Karim MP, Shamsunnahar Ahsanullah MP,

General Secretary of Munshiganj District BNP Mujibur Rahman, JCD leader Kamruzzaman Ratan and local BNP leader Rafiqul Islam.

Earlier, on her arrival at the meeting venue the Prime Minister was greeted by hundreds of her party workers and supporters, chanting slogans welcoming her visit to the area.

The Prime Minister said her government had taken all measures for ensuring development and resolving the people's huge problems. She said—

## Myanmar Home Minister won't visit Ctg, Cox's Bazar

CHITTAGONG, May 19: The Myanmar Home Minister scheduled visit to Chittagong and Cox's Bazar next week has been cancelled today, a highly placed source said.

A message from Myanmar to this effect was conveyed to the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka today, the source here added.

The earlier itinerary of the Myanmar Home Minister Lt Gen Mya Thinn had included visits to Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar on May 25 and an overnight stay in Chittagong on his way back to Dhaka, the source informed.

The Myanmar Home Minister is expected to arrive in Dhaka on May 24 at the invitation of Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury.

## Investment in Bangladesh Major administrative reforms needed

Star Report

Lack of accountability, complex administrative procedures coupled with "gross abuses" and bureaucratic interference were the primary impediments to investment in the country, a recent report by a World Bank affiliate reveals.

"The bureaucracy likes and lives on complicated regulations and far from encouraging investment, the bureaucracy seems to be constraining it," observed the report, based on a study conducted last year by the Washington-based Foreign Investment Advisory Service (FIAS).

The report pointed out that none of the financial incentives to domestic and foreign in-

vestors would bear any fruit until "major and penetrative" administrative reforms are implemented.

"The entire administrative apparatus of the government needs to be made transparent and accountable and unless action is taken immediately to eliminate gross abuses, no amount of piecemeal changes in procedures will be effective," asserted the report.

Identifying the maze of regulations, rules, guidelines and administrative procedures created by the bureaucracy as a major obstacle to investment, the FIAS report said "The rapidity with which new regula-

## JS session from June 6

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has summoned the session of the Jatiya Sangsad on June 6 at 10 am, said an announcement of the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The session of the Sangsad due to commence from June 6 will be the tenth session of the fifth parliament. The budget for 1993-94 will be placed during the session.

## Indians living along Bangladesh border to get ID cards

NEW DELHI, May 19: India will issue identity cards to citizens living in border areas in an effort to stop illegal entry, a government official said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

He said that residents of nine states bordering Pakistan and Bangladesh would be given the cards.

Assam, Nagaland, West Bengal, Tripura, Mizoram and Meghalaya in the East and Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab states would enforce the plan.

The scheme, announced after a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, would cost the government about 22.5 million dollar.

## Student murder in Mirpur Two held for questioning

Mirpur, May 19: Two young men for their alleged involvement in the murder of a student leader at Mirpur Tuesday night.

Bahauddin Janu, a leader of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and a second year student of Mirpur Government Bangla College, was shot dead inside the college compound.

Janu, a former leader of the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) joined the JCD unit of the college last year.

Both the arrested persons—Tanjil Ahmed Raju and Manwar Hossain Babul—were detained in the Detective Branch office at Minto Road for questioning.

Detective police, in separate raids at Mirpur, arrested Raju and Babul between 3 am and 4 am Wednesday, police said.

## DMP commissioner admits rise in crime

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Wednesday disclosed that robberies in the capital were on the rise this year.

Commissioner AN Hussain, while exchanging views with crime reporters of newspapers at the Minto Road office of the Detective Branch yesterday said, "It has been observed, nearly 77 per cent of the total robberies in the Dhaka Metropolitan area were street muggings and hijackings while the rest were committed in different residential areas."

However, the Police Commissioner claimed that overall, crimes and violent incidents in Dhaka had decreased.

Hussain said, 4098 criminal cases were recorded in the metropolitan area during the first quarter of 1992 while 3716 were recorded during the corresponding period this year.

It has been noted that most of the criminals who are responsible for street muggings and hijackings are drug-addicts.

## Sharif's dismissal Pak SC to meet in camera to study documents

ISLAMABAD, May 19: Judges considering a challenge to the dismissal of former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif ordered a closed door session today to consider secret documents submitted by the government, reports AP.

The 11-member panel of judges headed by Chief Justice Nasim Hassan Shah overruled objections by Sharif's lawyer Yahya Bakhtiar and ordered the session to be held in camera to allow the government to submit the sensitive documents.

Shah said the state attorney Aziz Munshi had submitted...

## Investigation begins Cockpit crew of Biman DC-10 grounded

By Staff Correspondent

All the three cockpit crew of the ill-fated Biman flight from Jeddah, which skidded off the runway at ZIA Tuesday, have been grounded, Biman officials said yesterday.

The enquiry committee investigating the mishap also held its first hearing on the day while the Biman authorities were still uncertain on when the aircraft would be salvaged and sent for repairs.

Biman flight BG-036 landed in pouring rain at 7:05 am with 123 passengers and 12 crew and skidded nearly 12,00 ft past the runway before grinding to a halt in thick mud in an adjacent field with its nosewheel severely damaged.

All passengers and crew were however, evacuated unhurt from the aircraft.

"Poor visibility" during the inclement weather was the immediate cause of the mishap, Biman authorities said.

The three cockpit crew, Flight Commander Captain Azizullah, co-pilot Captain Kaiser and flight engineer Sharif, were grounded with immediate effect in what Biman officials said, was a standard procedure. The crew would remain grounded till the investigation is completed.

The six-member probe committee headed by the Member (Operations) of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Group Captain Najmul Haque Chowdhury started recording the statements of the three cockpit crew aboard Flight BG-036. The hearing was held at the CAAB office adjacent to the Zia International Airport.

According to officials, the committee is expected to submit its report within a month.

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## Some passengers fetch baggage

Some among the lucky passengers of the DC-10 which skidded off the runway during landing at ZIA Tuesday morning returned to the airport to fetch their baggage yesterday.

A group of about 20 passengers were seen waiting in queue in front of the 'mishandled baggage' section inside the Zia International Airport at around noon on the day.

Talking to the Staff

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Security men stand guard as workers try to free the front wheels of the Biman DC-10 which sank in the mud after the plane, coming from Jeddah, skidded and overshot the ZIA runway while landing on Tuesday. (More pictures on Page 3). —Star photo by AKM Mohsin

## Avoid hasty implementation of FAP, experts urge govt

By Staff Correspondent

Experts, NGO activists and professionals concerned yesterday urged the government to immediately stop any kind of structural construction works under the Flood Action Plan (FAP).

At a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club, they called upon the government to spare more time for research and observation works on the FAP before implementing the project in haste.

The press conference was organised by economist Prof Anisur Rahman, the chairperson of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), Khushi Kabir, development economist Shauwan Adnan and chairperson of the coalition for the environment-friendly NGOs Kazi Faruk Ahmed.

It was also attended by Dr Atique Rahman of the Bang-

ladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), general secretary of the Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association Dr Mohiuddin Faruk, engineer Aminur Rahman, Mujibul Huq Dulu and Salim Samad.

Reading out a statement, Kazi Faruk Ahmed said the activities for the FAP had begun in 1989-90 without consulting any public opinion. This was necessary because previous flood preventive measures had proved useless and even harmful to the public, they claimed.

Engineer Aminur Rahman said that during 1952-54, there were only 12 kms of embankments which rose to 7,555 kms during the Eighties. Such embankments in flood affected areas had increased by 60 per cent in 1988 compared to the early Fifties.

They also urged for dialogues between the people and the government regarding the

"Unplanned embankments may sometimes help a particular region to fight floods for a while," they said, "but often, within a few years, such protection plans may instead be responsible for causing more floods or even aggravating their effects."

They said if the implementation of the FAP were to begin now nearly 20 lakh people would be affected. The FAP, does not clearly say how or whether any compensation would be given to the affected people, they pointed out.

"Flood control in the real sense is impossible," they said, and added experience showed that nobody can prevent floods with only embankments, or dams.

They also urged for dialogues between the people and the government regarding the

## ALWC extended meeting begins today

A two-day extended meeting of Awami League (AL) Central Working Committee begins today at 10 am at the party central office to take stock of the country's situation and chalk out its course of action, reports UNB.

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will chair the meeting.

Meanwhile, the AL Presidium in a meeting yesterday expressed grave concern at the deterioration of law and order situation, 'abuse' of the Anti-terrorism Act against the opposition, including AL leaders and workers, across the country.

The situation is such 'that it is hard to believe that a government exists in the country, a resolution of the meeting said.

Party chief Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting, held at the AL central office.

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## 411 TCB employees opt for retirement

Some 411 officials and employees of the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) have opted for retirement, beginning the process of squeezing the state-run trading house, reports UNB.

Sources at the Ministry of Commerce said the offer from TCB staffers came in response to the authorities' call for voluntary retirement, a donor-prescribed scheme, dubbed 'Golden Handshake', of reducing surplus manpower from government agencies.

With the acceptance of the retirement offers, TCB manpower will stand at 900 which, sources said, is the maximum acceptable limit.

They said with fast withdrawal of government intervention from external trade, TCB would further dwindle in near future.

It was learnt that there is a proposal to the Commerce Ministry for squeezing the

corporation manpower to 500 from the present 1300.

TCB used to handle 25 per cent of the country's import trade, but its share has dropped to a meagre 0.50 per cent.

The Commerce Ministry has already asked for allocation of Tk 17 crore to implement the retirement of 411 TCB employees, including 96 officials.

Meanwhile, sources said, the Commerce Ministry has also decided to either trim or abolish some of the agencies under its umbrella.

Decision has been taken in principle to abolish the Supply and Inspection Department and transfer its functions to the Establishment Division.

Stringing down the office of the Controller of Import and Export has also been planned.

Retrenching surplus manpower from government agencies was pressed by donors in last month's Aid Club meeting in Paris.

## Tejgaon Polytech students union polls postponed

The students union election of Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute scheduled for yesterday had been postponed following a volatile situation on the campus, reports UNB.

Institute sources said the election was postponed Tuesday night at the telephonic instruction from the Ministries of Home and Education to maintain law and order.

The instruction came after Dhaka City (North) unit of Awami League backed Chhatra League had called for a half-day hartal in Tejgaon thana area yesterday protesting the holding of a 'farical election' in the institute. The hartal was called off following the postponement of the election.

Chhatra League also submitted—

## CPB's special session deferred again

By Staff Correspondent

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has once again decided to shift its special council session to allow the feuding groups of the party to narrow their differences on the party's political line, sources in the CPB said.

The two-day special session, scheduled for May 23 and 24, will now be held on June 15 and 16.

The session was originally scheduled for May 13-15.

Leaders of the two factions—the hardliners and the reformists—after a day-long meeting of the party central committee yesterday felt that a deferment of the dates was necessary for an 'amicable settlement' of their dispute.

Meanwhile, members of the CPB's negotiating body, which is known as the control committee of the party, had a closed door meeting with both factions Tuesday and advised the leaders to take a few more days before a final decision on the future of the party.

The commission members urged both groups to narrow down their differences and avert a rift.

The hardliners in the central committee yesterday told the meeting that the communists could not afford to work under the non-communists.

They also maintained that the reformists would either have to accept communist



Police arrested this youngman yesterday from the Nabisco crossing for allegedly hurling a hand-made bomb at them. —Star photo