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# The Daily Star

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**Inside Today**

**Article**  
 Call for a national debate  
 Let us give a Fair Deal to our Hardworking farmers  
 Column: On The Record by Shah A M S Kibria Page 4

**International**  
 Nepalese left parties boycott upper house by-elections  
 Hema Premadasa plans to form new party Page 5

**Business**  
 Poor Asian states send strong messages to the rich Page 6

**Living**  
 From nine to five, The uneasy urchins and cookery Page 8

**Metropolitan**  
 Dhaka Day by Day  
  
 Golden Fibre's Golden Days are Back! Page 3

## JS goes into session today Budget to be placed on June 10

By Nurul Kabir

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into its budget session at 10 this morning.

The national budget for 1993-1994 fiscal year will be placed in the House on June 10, sources in both Finance Ministry and the Parliament Secretariat said.

This will be the tenth session of the Fifth Parliament. Earlier, the current parliament, constituted after the general elections in Feb 1991, approved the national budgets for 1991-92 and 1992-93.

According to official sources, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman is expected to propose a revenue budget of Tk 13,000 crore including Tk 9,500 crore from the National Board of revenue (NBR) sources.

Along with the revenue budget, a Tk 9,750 crore Annual Development Programme (ADP) would be placed in the House for consideration. The ADP was okayed by the National Economic Council (NEC) earlier last month. The government has also projected Tk 2,800 crore for the ADP from the revenue surplus in the budget for the next fiscal.

Meanwhile, the Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad, comprising senior MPs from different political parties, met yesterday morning to decide the issues, as well as the order of business, to be discussed in the House during the budget session.

According to meeting sources, the House would deliberate on four bills pending before it during the first two days of the session.

The bills are the Bank Company (Amendment) Bill, 1993, the Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Welfare (Amendment) Bill, 1993, the Securities and Exchange Commission Bill, 1993 and the Securities and Exchange (Amendment) Bill, 1993.

All the four bills — earlier promulgated as ordinances — will be discussed on June 10.

## Camps for Chakma refugees open

The government has formed three committees and opened six reception centres and shelters for smooth repatriation of tribal refugees from the Indian State of Tripura, beginning June 8, according to an official source in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The committees which would work from the district to the highest level of the government, are: Central Coordinating Committee; Monitoring Committee and District Committee.

The understanding for ensuring rapid repatriation of the tribal refugees was reached during the visit of Communications Minister Oli Ahmed to the Indian State of Tripura when he led a delegation in a two-day ministerial-level meeting on May 8-9. A joint statement on the issue was published on May 10 simultaneously from the capitals of the two countries.

The government had already opened repatriation centres for the smooth return of the tribal refugees — two reception centres at Ramgarh sadar thana and Tabalchhari under Panchhari thana and four shelter camps at Khagrachhari sadar, Matiranga, Dighinala and Manikchhari. The repatriation will continue for three days a week, the source said.

Arrangements have been made to provide food to the repatriated refugees immediately after their arrival at the centres. Whole-time medical teams will be available for the health care of the refugees and other necessary arrangements, including that of drinking water have been made. Voluntary teams have been formed in each centre with local leaders and volunteers for receiving the refugees.

Every repatriated family will be given Taka 4,800 for house-building and agricultural grant and Taka 200 as travelling allowance in order to make it self-supporting.

Besides 21 kgs of rice would be given free to each family every week for six months.

## Wrong policy of BNP widening rich-poor gap, says Hasina

GOPALGANJ, June 5: Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina today said the disparity between the rich and the poor is widening because of the wrong policy of BNP government, reports UNB.

Addressing a workers' meeting of Gopalganj district Awami League, she said when the hapless people have been groaning under economic hardship and struggling for survival, a handful of people of a vested group is making fortune through illegal means.

The present government is callous about the wellbeing of commonman who are deprived of their basic needs, she said. President said, adding the whole nation is facing a disastrous situation.

Hasina criticised the government for patronising the anti-liberation elements and called for united resistance against them.

Gopalganj AL President Mohd Ali Khan Abu Mia presided over the meeting.



A colourful procession organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forest was brought out in the city yesterday in observance of the World Environment Day. — Star photo

## Environment Day observed

By Staff Correspondent

The World Environment Day was observed in the country as elsewhere in the world with a reiteration of the resolve to save the globe by protecting the environment.

Different government, non-government bodies and socio-cultural organisations planned programmes including seminars, symposia, processions and tree plantation programmes in the capital and other parts of the country.

The slogan of the UN-sponsored day for this year was "Poverty and the Environment: Breaking the Vicious Circle".

The day marks the anniversary of the opening of the "UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972. The conference led to the establishment of the UN Environment Programme based in Nairobi.

In the capital, several hundred children, men, women and environment protection campaigners marched with banners and placards containing slogans, from the Shishu Park to the Shishu Academy as well as in other parts of the city.

## Prime Minister's call Include environment in party agenda

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Saturday said that protection of the environment was a political commitment of her party and urged other parties to include it in their agenda.

"Protecting the environment is our political commitment. The very existence of mankind is linked to the environment. So we have taken it as a national issue," she said while inaugurating a seminar on World Environment Day at the Osman Memorial auditorium.

"It is my appeal to the political parties and social organisations that they take it as a party agenda to mobilise the people," she said at the seminar organised by the Environment Directorate.

The seminar was part of the observance of World Environment Day, observed in the country as elsewhere in the world yesterday to create awareness among the people to check pollution for the protection of global environment.

The Prime Minister termed the theme of this year's environment day "Poverty and the Environment: Breaking the Vicious Circle" as timely and apt for the Third World countries including Bangladesh where poverty is causing various problems including environmental degradation.

Environment degradation is a global problem and united international efforts should be made to protect the universe, Begum Zia said.

Referring to Bangladesh's commitment to the cause of global environment protection, she said that the country signed the UN declaration at the Rio Earth Summit and has also been actively participating in programmes for the protection of the environment within the country.

## BTMC closes Barisal Textile Mills

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 5: The Barisal Textile Mills, one of the southern region of the country, was shut down today following an order of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC).

The government-owned industry, employing 1200 workers, has incurred a loss of Tk 25 crore since its installation in January 1979.

Informed sources said, procedures to privatise the mills have been completed recently and the closure was only a step in that direction.

Located on an area of 28 acres, the mills with 25,000 spindles had to suspend production since April last after the BTMC stopped supplying it with cotton on credit. The plant reportedly owes around Tk 10 to 12 crore to the BTMC.

The Power Development Board (PDB) earlier cut off electricity connection to the mills for its failure to pay about Tk 35 lakh in long over due bills.

Presently 700 families of the workers living in the mills premises are having to do without electricity and are also facing scarcity of drinking water.

Unsold low quality yarn worth Tk three crore are lying in the mills godowns.

Meanwhile, about 500 workers of the mills have opted for voluntary retirement.

The workers union of the Barisal Textile Mills will hold a press conference in the town on Monday regarding the shut down.

## Hearing against dissolution of Punjab assembly resumes

LAHORE (Pakistan), June 5: Five High Court judges resumed hearing a petition here today against the dissolution of the provincial assembly in Punjab, power base of Pakistani Premier Nawaz Sharif, reports AFP.

The legislatures in Punjab and North West Frontier Province (NWFP) were dissolved a week ago, three days after Pakistan's Supreme Court restored Sharif's government and the National Assembly.

The dissolution of the legislatures was seen by Sharif's camp as a move inspired by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan following the May 26 supreme court verdict.

The court had invalidated the president's April 18 order that dissolved the federal assembly and sacked Sharif's government on charges of corruption and mismanagement at the climax of a power tussle between the two men.

The Punjab assembly was dissolved on May 29 amid a drive by pro-Sharif deputies to unseat pro-Ishaq Khan Chief Minister Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo through a no-confidence motion.

The Lahore High Court adjourned the hearing until Sunday after hearing arguments from the petitioner, Chaudhury Pervaiz Elahi, who was opposition leader in the dissolved Punjab assembly.

## Ban on ISS upheld

NEW DELHI, June 5: A judge upheld a ban on a Muslim fundamentalist group blamed for inciting Hindu-Muslim riots in southern India, United News of India reported Saturday, reports AP.

The Islamic Sevak Sangh, better known by its acronym ISS, was banned along with three Hindu and another Muslim organizations after sectarian violence that left at least 2,000 people dead last December.

The ban on the groups was imposed by the government Dec 10, four days after Hindu militants leveled a 16-century mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya.

United News did not give reasons for Justice PM Nag's decision to maintain the ban.

On Friday, another judge lifted a ban on two Hindu groups — the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Bajrang Dal — saying there was insufficient grounds to declare them unlawful.

But a ban on the World Hindu Council, which has said that it wants to destroy two other historic mosques in India, was upheld Friday.

A review of the ban on the other Muslim group, Jamiat-e-Islami, is yet to come up for hearing.

## Khasbulatov; 50 others storm out Pandemonium in Russian constitutional assembly

MOSCOW, June 5: President Boris Yeltsin opened a constitutional convention in the Kremlin on Saturday, but it was immediately thrown into pandemonium when his chief rival stormed out, reports AP.

Yeltsin told the 700 delegates that Russia had reached a "most important watershed" and called for the elimination of the Soviet-era Congress that has resisted his free-market reforms.

"The Congress of People's Deputies is an unnatural structure," he said. "It's a subject of manipulation while having practically unlimited power."

Congress speaker Russian Khasbulatov, Yeltsin's chief opponent in a yearling struggle for power, then strode to the podium of the Kremlin's glittering Marble Hall and demanded a chance to respond to the president's 35-minute opening address.

Yeltsin refused. He said that if he opened the convention to floor debate, it would immediately become "another session of Congress."

Catcalls and shouts rang out as Khasbulatov's supporters "protested and Yeltsin's backers jeered. Finally, the parliament speaker grabbed a microphone on the podium below Yeltsin.

Khasbulatov said angrily that Yeltsin's refusal to let him speak "shows you're not capable of holding a discussion." Then he walked out of the chamber, followed by about 50 other delegates.

"It is clear where we are heading now... We are moving toward a dictatorship," he told reporters as he left the Kremlin.

It appeared that the convention would proceed anyway. Yeltsin aides had been prepared for a possible walkout, although its occurrence in the first hour of the assembly took many delegates by surprise.

"It was a premeditated attempt at a provocation," Yeltsin told reporters. "It did not disrupt the work of the convention."

Meanwhile, 3,000 to 5,000 diehard Communist and nationalists rallied outside the headquarters of the former KGB to denounce Yeltsin and his proposed constitution.

"Long live the Soviet Socialist Constitution!" said a banner carried by the marchers. An elderly woman waved a sign that read: "When the Democrats were in psychiatric hospitals, the people of Russia worked, harvested and sang!"

Yeltsin's opening speech was shown on commonwealth television, but the live broadcast ended as soon as he finished, so Khasbulatov's walkout and the ensuing pandemonium was not shown.

Standing on the pale wood podium, flanked by Russian flags, Yeltsin read his speech in a forceful voice.

"We have reached a most important watershed in the life of the Russia state," he said. "Starting June 5, 1993, the clock of history will mark especially significant days. The decisive phase of constitutional reform has begun."

Yeltsin called the convention after winning a national vote of confidence on April 25.

## Most Britons prefer Europe to America

LONDON, June 5: More and more people in Britain now believe that Europe is more important than America to Britain, according to findings of a public opinion poll released on May 31, reports Xinhua.

The poll, conducted by Mori for the London Times, shows that 57 per cent of respondents regard Europe as most important to Britain and only 15 per cent mention the United States.

The gap is even wider in the professional and managerial classes where 76 per cent say that Europe is the most important to Britain and only 10 per cent say that America is.

This is in a sharp contrast to a study in 1969 when a third of respondents said America was most important and only a fifth said Europe was.

The Mori poll also shows 54 per cent of the British public believes that the British government takes the American governments point of view too much into account in determining Britain's foreign policy.

## Muslims flee Ayodhya fearing fresh riots

AYODHYA, June 5: Muslims were fleeing Ayodhya today as fears grew that a row between rival Hindu groups over a guru's plan to hold a prayer meeting near the razed Babri Mosque could trigger clashes, reports AFP.

Paramilitary rapid action force troops also moved into the pilgrim town a day ahead of Guru Chandraswami's scheduled "Som Yagya" or prayer by fire, to "exorcise the violence triggered in India by the mosque's destruction."

Some 2,000 people died in Hindu-Muslim rioting which rolled across the country after Hindu fanatics toppled the 16th-century mosque and built a makeshift temple to Hindu Lord Rama atop its ruins on December 6.

"Some 90 per cent of Ayodhya's women and children have fled. Only men are here," said Wassi Ahmad Khan, Chief of the Babri Mosque Action Committee, which is spearheading a drive for the reconstruction of the toppled Islamic Shrine.

Eighty per cent of the Muslim men were staying away from their homes, the Muslim activist said, as 4,000 state policemen, mostly Hindu officers, moved into Ayodhya late Friday.

"We don't trust the state police," Khan said of the Uttar Pradesh officers who have been frequently accused of siding with Hindus in religious strife in the populous northern state and failed to prevent the mosque's demolition.

He said many of Ayodhya's Muslims, numbering 4,300, have moved their belongings elsewhere fearing that a clash between Chandraswami's men and activists of an outlawed Hindu would trigger rioting.

"We won't let December 6 repeat itself... I will not permit any lawlessness," said Prakash Singh, police chief of Uttar Pradesh, where Ayodhya is located, 700 kilometers (420 miles) north from New Delhi.

The officer said the town's Muslim districts had been placed under a "security net" as a precaution against Hindu-led attacks on the minority religious community.

Hindu zealots after toppling the Babri Mosque sacked about half of Ayodhya's more than 400 Muslim-owned homes and stores and razed 16 of its 60 mosques in a vicious attack on December 6.

## Drop objections to coalition with CPP, Sihanouk asks son

PHNOM PENH, June 5: Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk said today that only the refusal of the Royalist FUNCINPEC party led by his son prevented the formation of a reconciliation government following UN-run elections, reports Reuter.

"If FUNCINPEC grants full powers to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, I will organise a new government within one or two days," he said in a 45-minute address on Phnom Penh government radio.

The Cambodian head of state bluntly called for his son to drop his objections to a coalition involving the Royalist's bitter rival, the Phnom Penh government's Cambodian People's Party.

"FUNCINPEC should not raise the problem of sharing power nor raise the need to negotiate at this difficult time," he said.

He said he was expanding an earlier proposal to form a bipartite coalition between the country's two main political parties — the ruling Cambodian People's Party and election-winning FUNCINPEC, led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh — to include the opposition Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party.

"FUNCINPEC does not yet agree. I am waiting for FUNCINPEC," he said.

Sihanouk declared a bipartite government on Thursday afternoon with himself as Prime Minister and Ranariddh and the CPP premier Hun Sen as deputy premiers, but was forced to shelve the idea when Ranariddh responded with several conditions.

Sihanouk said he was not angry with Ranariddh, but his son should remember that his campaign for the May 23-28 UN-run election had relied on his father's name.

"You must remember you won the election because you used Sihanouk's name, he chided.

Sihanouk Led FUNCINPEC — French acronym for the national united front for an independent, neutral peaceful and cooperative Cambodia — before being restored as neutral head of state.

It won a modest victory ahead of the CPP, the political wing of the Hanoi-installed Phnom Penh government.

Ranariddh complained to his father that his first coalition proposal did not reflect the outcome of the election. A

Six hundred Cambodians demonstrated peacefully on Saturday in front of the Royal palace in favour of Sihanouk's earlier initiative. They dispersed shortly after 9 am.

Ranariddh sent a message to his father on Thursday saying he was especially unhappy about the idea of working with his half-brother and bitter rival Prince Norodom Chakrapong, a CPP official.

Sihanouk said on the radio that Chakrapong had agreed not to join in the reconciliation government.

## 19 hurt as rival groups clash

SIRAJGANJ, June 5: At least 19 people were injured, three of them seriously, in a clash between two groups of people over possession of trees at Patagram village in Kaziup thana of the district today (Saturday).

Villagers said, the clash began when Shahjahan Master and his uncle former UP member Haji Atahar Ali tried to collect some trunks of trees. Both groups used lethal weapons during the clash. Seriously injured Shahjahan Master (50), Toney (25) and Rafiqul (24) were admitted to the Kaziup Health Complex, reports UNB.