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# The Daily Star

**Nirman Tiles**

In Broken Marble Tiles Brighter Home At Lesser Price

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**FBCCI chief off to Singapore**

President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Mahbubur Rahman yesterday left Dhaka for Singapore to attend the two-day summit meeting of the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) beginning there today. The meeting will deliberate on the promotion of intra-regional trade, investment, technology transfer and tourism as well as to bring down barriers to intra-regional business. Mahbubur Rahman will also attend the regional conference of German Federation of Small Business and Crafts Technonet Asia (Singapore), a project of the Ministry of Economic Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Germany to be held in Singapore from June 23-25, reports BSS.

**USIS offices reopen today**

The offices of the United States Information Service, the American Cultural Centre library and Student Counseling Service reopened today. The offices were closed for several days following an outbreak of fire on June 15. A USIS press release said there was no significant damage to the American offices in the fire, which was confined to a storage area in the fifth floor lobby of the Jiban Bima Tower Building at Dilkusha Commercial Area, reports UNB.

**Indian sarees seized in Ctg**

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, June 20: Chittagong Metropolitan Police last night in a Special raid at city's Reazuddin Bazar seized a truck-load of Indian sarees worth about Taka 15 lakh.

**PM opens Dhaka EPZ at Savar**

## Long-term strategy to set up more export-oriented units

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday said the government has adopted a long-term strategy for setting up more export-oriented industries in the country. "Necessary reforms are being effected in our monetary, fiscal, import and labour policies. Administrative and financial management is being also modernised for the purpose," she said.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating the country's second Export Processing Zone (EPZ) yesterday morning at Savar.

Referring to the need for increased foreign investment, she said a major factor behind the prosperity of South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and China was overseas investment. Foreign investment not only caters to capital requirement but was also a carrier of modern technology, she observed.

Begum Zia said the government had tuned the industrial

and investment policies to this end and were providing all facilities to the foreign investors in this regard.

The Prime Minister said there had been very encouraging response to the Dhaka Export Processing Zone and it will be further expanded in the backdrop of increased demand.

The success of the Chittagong Export Processing Zone had led to the establishment of the Dhaka Export Processing Zone, she said, adding that another export processing zone would be set up at Khulna.

She also disclosed that the third phase of the Chittagong Export Processing Zone would be taken up shortly.

Begum Zia continued peace and stability was an essential pre-requisite for development and investment. Frequent strikes and work stoppages adversely affect the

investment climate, she added. Stressing the need for maintaining congenial atmosphere in the mills and factories, she said this was not the responsibility of the government alone, rather it was equally the duty of all patriotic citizens.

She also stressed the need for continued efforts for enhancement of investment saying that there was no short-cut to development except through hard labour.

"We are now at a crossroad. Today the choice before us is, will we continue to rotate in the vicious cycle of poverty, or join the march towards progress." She added that when the world was moving forward, Bangladesh also has to keep pace.

"This calls for united participation in the politics of development and production. Only in this way can we achieve prosperity, safeguard democ-

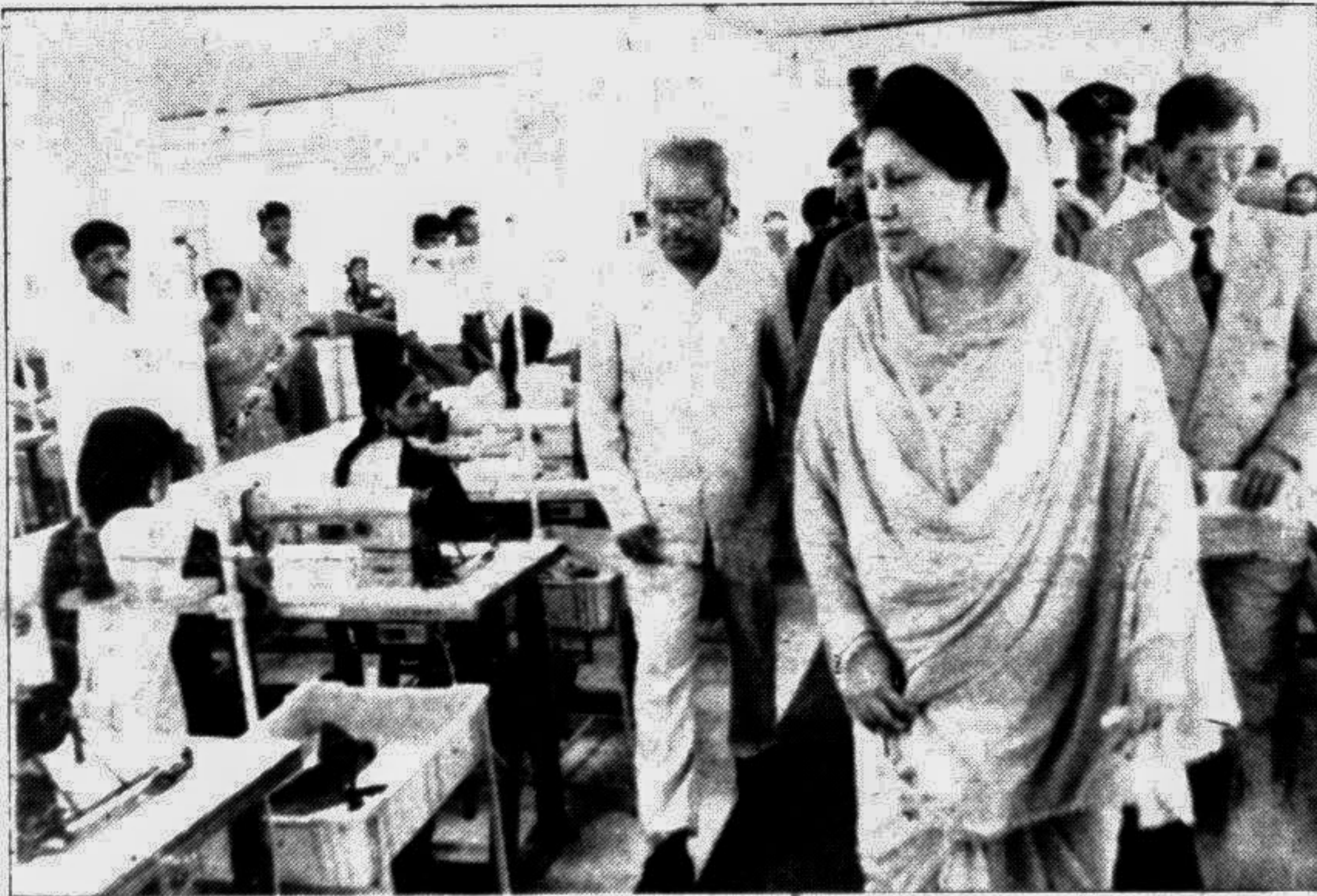
racy and make our hard-earned independence meaningful," the Prime Minister said.

She also called upon the investors and entrepreneurs from home and abroad to come forward with their capital and technology and assured them of all possible cooperation.

The inaugural function, presided over by the Executive Chairman of the Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) M Saiful Islam, was also addressed, among others, by Commerce Minister MK Anwar and Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan.

MK Anwar stressed the need for extending facilities enjoyed by units in the EPZs to all industries of the country.

He also suggested that local industries should be provided with facilities akin to those of the other countries to enable them to compete in the international market.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting a South Korean-owned sportswear factory after opening the Dhaka Export Processing Zone at Savar yesterday. Commerce Minister MK Anwar is seen on her right. — PID photo

**16 industries sanctioned**

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) has already sanctioned 16 industries involving investments of over 54.5 million US dollars equivalent to Tk 218 crore for the newly-inaugurated Dhaka Export Processing Zone.

The industries will create job opportunities for about seven thousand people.

The items which are expected to be manufactured by these industries include, ready-made garments, ready-made textile goods, woven and knitted wear, household fittings and equipment, horological instruments (watches and clocks), electrical instruments, electric components, electronic products, computer software, optical goods, products based on laser technology, pharmaceutical products, medical and biological instruments. — See Page 12 Col 6

**Rima murder case**

## Presidential pardon Munir's only hope

By Staff Correspondent

Munir Hussain, sentenced to death for the murder of his wife Rima, now must count his days as his last battle to escape the hangman's noose was lost in court yesterday. Only a Presidential reprieve can save his life now.

The order upholding the death sentence of Munir Hussain alias Suruj was delivered yesterday morning before a packed court after two days of hearing of the review petition.

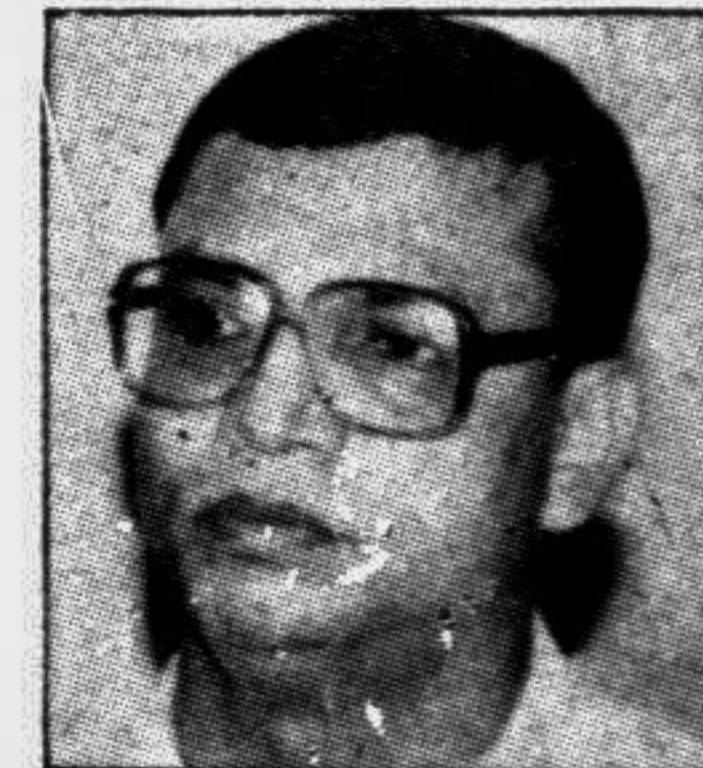
The Full bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court was headed by Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. Other judges who comprised the bench were Justice Habibur Rahman, Justice A T M Afzal and Justice Latifur Rahman.

Munir's review petition, based on the basis of the rejection order of the leave petition by the High Court Division, was filed on November 30 last year under Article 105 of the Constitution.

In what became one of the most publicised crimes of the country, Sharmin Rima, daughter of journalist Nizamuddin

Ahmed, martyred in the Liberation War, was killed by her husband Munir Hussain beside a highway near the village Mizmizi under Siddhirganj Police Station on April 9, 1989. Munir was arrested from a city hotel in Dhaka the next day and was convicted and sentenced to death by the District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka Sirajul Islam on May 21, 1990.

The District and Sessions Judge Page 12 Col 1



Munir ... condemned

## Flood situation in Ctg, Sylhet unchanged

The flood situation in the greater Sylhet region, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar yesterday remained unchanged.

Rain and onrush of water from hilly areas continued to submerge fresh areas.

In greater Sylhet, one person drowned in a boat capsizing. Another remained missing, two died of diarrhoeal diseases while many others were attacked, official sources from district control rooms said.

Rail links between greater Sylhet with the rest of the country remained cut-off. Road link between Dhaka and Sylhet is also suspended.

The flood forecasting and warning centre in the capital yesterday said that the Surma, the Kushiya, the Manu and the Khowal are likely to rise further at all points and the flood situation in the districts of Sylhet, Habiganj and Maul-

vibazar will aggravate further.

The Muhuri, the Halda and the Surma are also likely to rise further and flood situation in the districts of Feni, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar might also worsen.

Meanwhile, the Cox's Bazar control room told BSS that the road link of Cox's Bazar with Chittagong was suspended because the Eidgah Bridge and several other diversion bridges on the Arakan Road, which were damaged following onrush of water, could not be repaired.

The Sylhet control room said the flood situation in the district was deteriorating fast and the Companiganj thana headquarters have gone under two feet of water, forcing people of the low lying areas to take refuge in make-shift camps set up by the local administration. — See Page 12 Col 4

**ALCWC meet held**

## AL asks Babu to surrender

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League (AL) has officially decided to ask party MP Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu to surrender before the court immediately.

The decision was taken in an emergency meeting of the party's Central Working Committee held last night at the Jatya Sangsad Bhaban.

According to meeting sources, the ALCWC has also assigned Abdu Samad Azad, acting president of the party, to inform Akhtaruzzaman the party decision through his family members.

Akhtaruzzaman, an accused of the Humayun Zahir Khan Murder Case, has been absconding since June 12, the date his ad-interim bail expired.

The emergency meeting of the party Central Committee observed that Akhtaruzzaman's reluctance to appear before the court had affected the party image, sources said.

The meeting also felt that Rahmat Ali and AKM Jahangir, two other party MPs, and Advocate Abdul Malek who stood surety for Akhtaruzzaman's bail bond had been subjected to police harassment following the accused's disappearance. — See Page 12 Col 8

**Rain damages goods at ZIA**

By Staff Correspondent

Incessant rainfall since Thursday till Saturday damaged huge quantity of export and import items kept under the open sky at the Zia International Airport.

According to a preliminary estimate, the damage was estimated at Taka three crore, Civil Aviation sources told The Daily Star Sunday.

The goods which include garment raw materials, chemicals, and machinery could not be shifted to the airfreight godown because of severe space constraints there; they said.

## DU Summer Science Instt opens

By DU Correspondent

The Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University has urged the students to devote themselves to the practice of science with the limited available facilities.

Professor Enajuddin Ahmed was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the Summer Science Institute Saturday.

The function, held at the Mukarram Hossain Khandaker Science Building of the university, was presided over by Professor Abu Zafar Mahmud, a teacher of the Department of Chemistry.

The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor M Mashtuz-Zaman, Dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences Professor Anwara Begum, Professor Shahadat Ali and Professor Abu Obaydul Huq also addressed the function.

## Rao enters third year in office today

NEW DELHI, June 20:

India's Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao enters his third year in office on Monday having enacted revolutionary reforms to the state-dominated economy, but saddled with the country's biggest financial scandal, reports Reuter.

India's 870 million people, having seen four governments in four years amid sectarian riots, border rebellions and financial crisis, faced more turmoil last week.

Swashbuckling stockbroker Harshad "big bull" Mehta shocked even the cynical when he told a crowded news conference that he gave Rao a suitcase of money in the drawing room of the Prime Minister's residence in November 1991, days before Rao won a crucial parliamentary by-election.

Rao's reforms to the economy — deregulating trade and industry, privatising mismanaged and money-losing state firms, making the rupee fully convertible — were partly designed to break a cosy nexus between government and business.

Rao was expected to address the nation on Tuesday, a day after his second anniversary in office.

## JS passes Tk 2236 crore supplementary budget

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad Sunday approved a Tk 2236 crore 93 lakh 39 thousand supplementary budget for the current financial year ending this month.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman introduced the Appropriations (Supplementary) Bill—1993 proposing the said amount to carry out the work by different ministries. The bill was passed by voice vote.

The opposition members in Parliament objected to the supplementary allocation saying that "an inflated bureaucracy, failure of the government and corruption at all levels" forced the government to seek such a huge amount for the supplementary budget.

The appropriations bill was introduced following passage of all the 45 demands for grants amounting to Tk 2196,40,75,000 in respect of

expenditure by different ministries till June 30 next.

The non-votable amount of the supplementary budget (1992-93) is Tk 40,52,64,000. Of the 45 demands for grants, 20 demands involving Tk 292,72,90,000 were approved after discussions by the opposition MPs.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali applied the guillotine to dispose off the rest of the 25 demands for grants, rejecting the cut motions of the opposition after Maghreb prayers.

The opposition members moved some 296 cut motions of different categories opposing the allocation demand by the ministers.

The House, during the 90-minute sitting on the day, approved 10 demands by voice vote after discussion by the opposition MPs in support of their cut motions.

Thirteen opposition mem-

bers spoke in support of their cut motions on the demands for grant. They were Rashed Khan Menon (Workers Party), Gazi Nazrul Islam (Jamaat), and Abul Hassan Chowdhury, Tabbar Rahman Sarder, Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, Jainaal Abedin Hazari, Saifsh Chandra Roy, Abul Kalam Azad, Prof Rafiqul Islam, Kazi Abdur Rashid, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Shahjahan Khan and Sudhangsu Shekhar Halder (Awami League).

Discussing the cut motion on a Tk 82,36,54,000 supplementary allocation for the education sector, Rashed Khan Menon pointed out different irregularities in the primary education sector.

He said that the Finance Minister in his budget speech said that a handsome amount remained unutilised in the highest allocated education sector. — See Page 12 Col 2

## Sircar's comment irks opposition

By Staff Correspondent

The word "thief" once again generated heat in Parliament Sunday when Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar pronounced the word during his reply to opposition allegations of "anomalies and corruption" in the sector.

Three opposition MPs taking part in the discussions on the cut motions on the supplementary budget 1992-93 for the education sector accused the minister of "failure in checking corruption in his sector."

The minister, after refuting all the charges levelled by Sudhangsu Shekhar Halder, Rashed Khan Menon and Nazrul Islam, concluded his speech with the Bengali maxim: "chorer mar' bara gala" — It takes a thief to know a thief— thereby suggesting that the opposition MPs were not innocent.

Immediately after this the opposition MPs started shouting and some of them stood up demanding that the minister be censured for his comment. — See Page 12 Col 1

## Budget ignores sick industries: DCCI chief

Star Report



ATM Wazullah

President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), A T M Wazullah feels the proposed budget for 1993-94 adds a "new dimension" but says it lacks necessary planning for new industrialisation.

"The budget should have contained some specific facilities for industries, like minimum tax facilities and tax holiday for a reasonable period," the DCCI chief said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star.

The government should provide our entrepreneurs facilities which are enjoyed by our counterparts in the neighbouring countries to make our industries competitive in the

international market," Wazullah said.

The budget also completely overlooks the sick industries and provides no scheme for their rehabilitation," he pointed out, adding that there had been a provision of Taka 100 crore in the previous budget for the sick industries.

"The entrepreneurs of the sick units have the experience; if they are given the chance, they will be able to produce results," Wazullah said.

"India and Japan had taken special care of their sick industries, and today they are no longer sick," he stated. On the budget's "no-tax" characteristics, he said the government should not mar it

by issuing any statutory revenue order (SRO) after the Parliament passes the budget.

Wazullah praised the budget's provisions for lowering the burden of income tax on the common men. But he said the budget's proposal that personal loans over Taka 50,000 staying with the loanee upto two years would be deemed as income of the loanee and thereby comes under the purview of income tax, is a bad move.

"This would discourage investment," the DCCI chief said.

He also said the value added tax system should be simplified and the rate should be brought down to ten per cent instead of the existing 15 per cent. — See Page 12 Col 8

## Move in Pak NA to curb Ishaq's powers

ISLAMABAD, June 20:

Pakistan's National Assembly took a first step today towards clipping sweeping Presidential powers and preventing the future dissolution of the House by any head of state, reports AFP.

The assembly adopted a resolution to set up a committee to consider repeal of a controversial, constitutional provision giving the President wide powers including discretionary authority to dissolve assemblies.

Surprisingly, the move came not from Premier Nawaz Sharif's party, but from a member of opposition leader

Benazir Bhutto's People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), Syed Iftikhar Gilani.

Some PDA deputies objected to the initiative of Gilani, a former justice minister saying it was taken independently of the party.

Speaker Gohar Ayub Khan said he would constitute the panel, in consultation with Sharif, opposition leader and former premier Bhutto and parliamentary heads of different parties.

No comment on Gilani's move was immediately available from Bhutto, who proposed Wednesday a package. — See Page 12 Col 8