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The Daily Star PASSED Buy BATTERY With LUCAS QUALITY SEAL

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Below the belt

From Page 1 Col 8
The opposition members also called for national unity to increase production for the development of the country.

Moudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party (JP) thanked the Finance Minister for his 'successful management of the macro-economy'.

Moudud said that the rural economy had been stagnant because the government failed to ensure fair prices to the agricultural products.

He expressed scepticism about the government's commitment to industrialise the country.

Matiur Rahman Nizami of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh, said that the objectives proposed in the Finance Minister's budget speech were very nice.

Nizami said that the proposed budget was designed on the principles of a free market economy but had failed to suggest measures to protect local industries.

Criticising the government's policy of withdrawing subsidy from agriculture on the World Bank's advice Nizami said that it would virtually destroy the most potential area of the country's economy.

The Jamaat MP advised the government not to blindly follow the World Bank suggestions, especially when developed nations like United States and Japan and even our neighbours India, have been giving subsidies to agriculture.

Nizami proposed that the national budget should be discussed in a pre-budget committee every year to ensure meaningful participation in the budget discussion.

cratic regime. But the opposition has been trying to destabilise the government since it came to power through a free and fair polls, he said.

The State Minister was critical of both the Awami League and the Jatiya Party for misrule during their regimes.

Deputy Minister for LGD, Abdul Hye disagreed with the opposition contention that the present government was not giving subsidy on agriculture.

He pleaded for establishing an industrial estate in each thana of the country to accelerate the process of industrialisation and to generate employment.

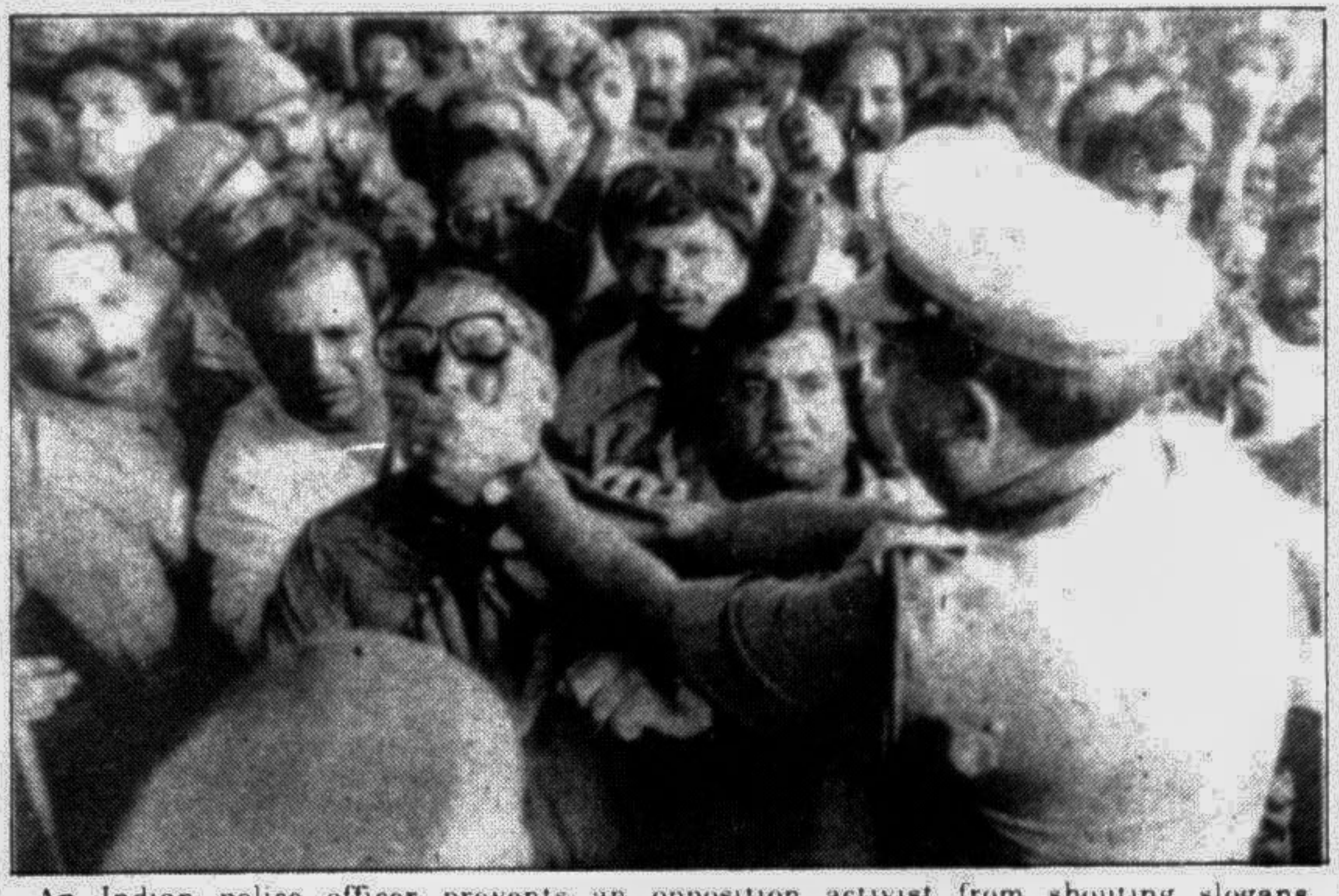
HC rejects
Further steps towards confiscating the property till disposal of the appeal.

Begum Ershad, now in custody in connection with the case, also moved a bail petition. The court fixed June 27 to pass order on the petition.

Begum Raushan Ershad filed the criminal appeal against the order and judgement of the Special Judge, Dhaka on June 7 in a special case, sentencing her, her husband H M Ershad and 17 others to suffer seven years imprisonment and confiscating the land and the Janata Tower building.

In her appeal, Begum Ershad prayed for a stay of the operation of the order of confiscation of the land and the building till disposal of the appeal.

Hasina
The Awami League chief told newsmen that all dignitaries she met during the visit had condemned the Indemnity Ordinance and Anti-Terrorism Act in Bangladesh and rejected them as 'anti-people and anti-democratic'.



An Indian police officer prevents an opposition activist from shouting slogans against Premier Narasimha Rao at a function attended by government officials on Wednesday.

JP constitution

From Page 1 Col 7
M Alam and Shameem Al-Mamoon, attacked Mizan Chowdhury for taking a number of anti-party decisions, including some new inductions in the presidium.

Only Munirul Haq Chowdhury spoke in favour of Mizan Chowdhury, while Moudud Ahmed tried to pacify both groups. Some 48 members, including eight MPs who are ex-officio members of the working committee, and a district leader from Dinajpur attended the meeting.

In the face of criticism by most of the speakers, the meeting decided that from now on the working committee would meet once every two months, according to the constitution.

The meeting also decided to complete conferences in all districts by August 31 to hold a national council.

A move to amend the party constitution was made at least three months ago and presidium member Sheikh Shahidul Islam had already prepared a draft of the proposed amendments.

The proposed amendments, if passed in the national council, would ease the total control over the party which the chairman now has. Consequently, the presidium and the central working committee's powers would increase proportionately.

Editor: S. M. Ali
Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka.

Chargesheets filed before JPC

CBI accuses Mehta of siphoning bank funds

BOMBAY, June 24: Federal detectives, probing India's biggest securities fraud, today accused Bombay stockbroker 'Big Bull' Harshad Mehta and 17 others of siphoning funds from state-run banks to illegally play the stock market, reports AFP.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in its first charge, also named a former chief of India's United Commercial Bank as one of the main accused in the 1.3 billion dollar share market scam.

In separate chargesheets filed before judge S N Variava the CBI said stockbroker Mehta, his relatives and the former bank chairman, Kandaswamy Margabandhu, had flouted all rules to plough money into the market.

Margabandhu was sacked after the scam surfaced in April last year to reveal nexus of bankers and brokers behind the government bond market swindle.

The CBI charges pave the way for the Variava court to start a trial into the securities fraud which turned thousands of investors into paupers after the scam's exposure led to a stock market crash.

Meanwhile, the joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probing the securities scandal has granted permission to Mehta to appear before it on June 30 at 1500 hrs, according to his counsel.

PM lauds SOS village activities

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here yesterday that it was the responsibility of all to ensure a growth supporting environment for grooming up children properly, reports BSS.

We have to remember, investment on children is the most valuable investment, Begum Khaleda Zia told the closing ceremony of the International SOS Childrens Village Day '93 at the village premises here yesterday.

Begum Zia also thanked the SOS Childrens Village organisers for their decision to set up a SOS Childrens Village at Bogra and youth village cum training centre at Bagerhat responding to her request.

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The Midnight File

Over 100 women activists of PPP arrested

KARACHI, June 24: More than 100 women activists from the main opposition group, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), were arrested here today while protesting against the government, party sources said.

Elchibey to hand over part of powers to Aliyev
BAKU, Azerbaijan, June 24: Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey, under pressure from army rebels to quit, has agreed to hand over some of his powers to parliamentary chairman Getdar Aliyev, a presidential spokesman said today.

Menon
From Page 1 Col 8
improve despite the end of Ershad's authoritarian rule in 1990.

The left-wing political leader observed that although parliamentary democracy was reintroduced in the country, the democratic rights of the people, especially of the working masses, were yet to be established.

Nirmul body
From Page 1 Col 8
The rally, at the Bangabandhu Avenue, was organised to mark the first anniversary of the death of a Nirmul body activist, Mukim in Rajshahi.

PM: Sylhet
From Page 1 Col 3
tagan) which was damaged by the floods, disrupting rail communications between Dhaka and Sylhet.

Sylhet flood
From Page 1 Col 4
Flood situation in Feni improved further with restoration of Feni-Porshuram train communication today.

22 held at ZIA with fake visas
By Staff Correspondent
Police arrested 22 persons Thursday morning when they tried to fly to Malaysia with fake visas.

FM: Bosnia
From Page 1 Col 5
The foreign minister informed that a special ministerial level meeting of the OIC countries in Vienna on June 15 had called for inclusion of Bosnia-Herzegovina issue in the final declaration of the conference which is scheduled to end today.

Derring-do

By Staff Correspondent
A daring auto-rickshaw driver over-powered one of the muggers who waylaid his vehicle by exploding crackers in the early hours Thursday near the city's Shishu (Children's) Park.

The driver caught hold of one of the muggers when they tried to snatch the goods from his passengers at 5:30am Thursday.

DU budget
From Page 1 Col 8
The budget provides additional allocation for modernising the library, setting up a 500 line telephone exchange, conferring Ph D degrees, and facilities for smooth research work in the laboratories.

Fatikhchhari
From Page 1 Col 4
Police arrested 35 persons from the centre.

Witnesses informed this correspondent that during the clash the entire examination centre turned into a battle ground marked by gunshots, cocktail blasts, chases and stampedes.

Everyone should look at the mirrors around them, Azad said, adding that Barrister Talukder should repent what he had said.

Budget: Interview
From Page 1 Col 5
never lowers the interest rate by any significant proportion.

Salam Talukder irked

From Page 1 Col 7
Khan Panni was at a loss to control the House for a while.

Springing on his feet in support of Mirza Azam, Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed said young MP Mirza Azam had brought certain allegations against the LGRD Minister who is not only an important minister but also the ruling party's Secretary General.

Tofael argued that the way a senior minister like Barrister Salam Talukder rebuked Azam was 'indecorous and uncourteous'.

The senior Awami League leader, who apparently felt provoked by Salam Talukder, said in a loud voice: 'You cannot use bad language... this is Parliament. You can't question the integrity of Azam's forefathers. You can't call him a thief.'