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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Tinbigha handing  
over day today**

LALMONIRHAT, June 25:  
The first anniversary of hand-  
ing over of Tinbigha Corridor  
to Bangladesh will be observed  
tomorrow at Dahagram and  
Angarpota. The Tinbigha  
Corridor was handed over on  
June 26 last year linking  
Dahagram and Angarpota en-  
claves with mainland Bangla-  
desh, reports BSS.

**Saifur's winding up  
budget speech today**

Finance Minister M Saifur  
Rahman will deliver his budget  
winding up speech at 7.30 pm  
today (Saturday) at the Jatiya  
Sangsad, reports UNB.

**Scientists assoc  
seminar tomorrow**

A seminar on "Remote sens-  
ing technology for environ-  
ment observation, develop-  
ment and survey of natural re-  
sources" will be held at  
Bangladesh Agricultural Re-  
search Council auditorium (BARC)  
at 9 am tomorrow. Organised  
by Bangladesh Association of  
Scientists and Scientific  
Profession, the inaugural  
function will be attended by  
Energy and Mineral Resources  
Minister Dr Khandakar  
Mosharraf Hossain as chief  
guest, reports UNB.

**Over hundred  
arrested in city**

By Staff Correspondent  
Police yesterday arrested  
more than one hundred people  
including one dacoit, three  
rickshaw thieves and recover-  
ed 2 pipe-guns, a gun, a pis-  
tol, 11 rounds of bullets and  
12 cocktails from different  
parts of the city, according to  
police sources.

## Bid to avert emergency Joint session of Pak Parliament Tuesday

ISLAMABAD, June 25: A  
joint sitting of the Pakistani  
parliament has been sum-  
moned here for Tuesday amid  
a row between President  
Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime  
Minister Nawaz Sharif and  
fears of a declaration of emer-  
gency, reports AFP.  
Official sources here said  
today that the President had  
conceded Sharif's request for  
calling the special session of  
both houses, but gave no  
agenda.  
However, sources in the  
Prime Minister's camp said  
the meeting was to pre-empt  
any presidential move to clamp  
a state of emergency on the  
country which has remained  
plunged in bitter political cri-  
sis for the past months.

Sharif's federal government,  
reinstated on a court order 18  
days after its dismissal by the  
78-year-old President in April  
18, has lost control over the  
four provinces.  
The crisis had first erupted  
earlier this year when Sharif  
tried to clip the President's  
discretionary powers, which  
enable him to hire and fire the  
government.  
Observers said that for  
Sharif the situation was worst  
in the largest and the richest  
province of Punjab, where a  
rival government had dissolved  
the provincial assembly. That  
dissolution came only four days  
after the May 26 Supreme  
Court ruling quashing the  
President's dissolution of the  
National Assembly.

The crisis was aggravated in  
Punjab, his home province,  
when the Speaker refused to  
comply with a recent interim  
order passed by the Lahore  
High Court on restoring the  
Punjab Assembly.  
The House, in which Sharif  
claims to command a majority,  
failed to meet, causing a delay  
in presenting the provincial  
budget. The constitution de-  
mands that the provinces must  
announce their fiscal pro-  
grammes ahead of the new fi-  
nancial year, which in Pakistan  
starts on July 1.  
A court hearing is continu-  
ing into a petition by Sharif's  
ally Parvez Elahi, challenging  
the Punjab governor Chaudhry  
Altaf Hussain's order to dis-  
Solve Page 12 Col 7

## Delhi sacks State Bank chief

NEW DELHI, June 25: The  
head of the government-owned  
State Bank of India, India's  
largest commercial bank, was  
sacked today for his alleged  
role in a 1.28 billion dollar se-  
curities scandal, reports  
Reuters.  
A Finance Ministry state-  
ment said Managing Director V  
Mahadevan had been dis-  
missed with immediate effect.  
No reasons were given in  
the statement but sources in  
the Finance Ministry said he  
was involved in the securities  
fraud, the country's biggest fi-  
nancial scandal.  
State Bank officials were  
unavailable for comment.  
At least three members of  
Parliament on a panel investi-  
gating the scandal had written  
to Prime Minister PV  
Narasimha Rao demanding  
Mahadevan's dismissal, the  
sources said.

Related Story on Page 6

## Labour bodies may go for separate action programmes

By Nazmul Ashraf  
Workers in four industrial  
sectors — jute, textiles, yarn  
and sugar — may go for a 96-  
hour shutdown all over the  
country from July 11, sources  
told The Daily Star last night.  
The shutdown programme  
is likely to be announced this  
afternoon at a workers' rally in  
the capital, depending on the  
weather.  
The Action Committee of  
trade union federations in these  
four sectors appears dis-  
illusioned with the Sramik  
Karmachari Oikya Parishad  
(SKOP)— an umbrella body of  
18 trade union federations in  
sector corporations and other  
autonomous organisations —  
and looks likely to go for its  
own agitational programme.  
Both the SKOP and the  
Action Committee, that ob-  
served simultaneous pro-  
grammes earlier on some  
common demands, have  
started reactivating their anti-  
government agitation recently  
after a lull of over a month.  
They enforced a 72-hour  
labour strike from May 11 after  
their talks with the authorities  
on the total implementation of  
government-labour bodies ac-  
cords, signed December 21,  
1991, failed.  
The alliance of the jute-  
textile-yarn-sugar mills trade  
union federations, in its June  
18 convention in the city, de-  
cided the July 11-14 shutdown  
but planned to consult the  
SKOP prior to disclosure of the  
final plans to synchronise the  
agitation programmes of both  
bodies. But the SKOP's delay in  
chalking out its new pro-  
gramme has annoyed the al-  
liance, and they have now  
preferred to go it alone.  
See Page 12 Col 4

## Involve 'target groups' in FP plan: PM

Prime Minister Begum  
Khaleda Zia yesterday stressed  
the need for effectively involv-  
ing the 'target group' among  
the rural people, which consti-  
tutes 80 per cent of the popu-  
lation, with the family planning  
programmes to contain the  
population boom, reports BSS.  
She also urged the country's  
political parties to give priority  
to the population problem in  
this party agenda.  
The Prime Minister was  
addressing the first meeting of  
the reconstituted National  
Population Council, the highest  
policy formulating body, at the  
International Conference  
Centre (ICC) last night.  
Begum Zia said the concept  
of the planned family had not  
yet fully reached the target  
group, which really needs the  
family planning.  
The Prime Minister, who is  
the chairperson of the National  
Population Council, said it is a  
matter of concern that the rate  
of population growth is 2.03  
See Page 12 Col 7



A MOST UNLIKELY MARKET-PLACE: The Rampura level-crossing in the city doubles as a market for daily necessities and should someone fall under the wheels of an approaching train, it is considered sheer misfortune for the victim.

—Star photo by Enamul Haq

## New land management policy soon

By Masud Hasan Khan  
The government will soon  
introduce an updated land  
management policy to remove  
existing legal loopholes and  
end malpractices in the  
khas (state-owned) land distri-  
bution system.  
In an interview with The  
Daily Star, State Minister for  
Land Md. Kabir Hossain said  
the government was also going  
to amend and update the State  
Acquisition Act, the Transfer  
of Property Act, the Vested  
Property Ordinance and the  
Bengal Tenancy Act.  
The minister identified  
wrong settlement policy, cor-  
ruption by a section of revenue  
department officials and in-  
consistent land laws as major  
hindrances to proper distribu-  
tion of khas land.  
There are roughly one crore  
landless peasants in the  
country, he said, however,  
adding that the total khas land,  
both arable and non-arable,  
was too inadequate to meet the  
need.  
The total area of khas land  
in the country was about 14  
lakh acres of which 8.19 lakh  
acres were cultivable, Hossain  
told The Daily Star.

## Hasina demands uniform edn system

Awami League President  
and Leader of the Opposition  
in Parliament Sheikh Hasina  
yesterday called for uniform  
education system ensuring  
equal education facilities for  
all, reports UNB.  
"A new strategy will have to  
be adopted in the light of Dr  
Qudrat-e-Khuda education  
commission to remove illiter-  
acy", she said.  
Hasina claimed the rate of  
education had declined to 20  
per cent from 26 per cent in  
1973.  
The Awami League Presi-  
dent was talking to a dele-  
gation of non-Government  
Primary School Teachers  
Association at her 29 Minto  
Road residence.  
Led by association president  
Major (ret) Asaduzzaman and  
secretary general Mansur Ali,  
the delegation submitted a  
memorandum containing their  
demands which included Tk  
1,500 as interim allowance for  
the non-government primary  
school teachers before national-  
isation.  
The delegation members  
sought support from the leader  
of the Opposition to the just  
movement of the teachers.

## Japanese elections likely to see end of LDP monopoly

From S Y Bakht  
TOKYO, June 25: The ruling  
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)  
is widely expected to lose con-  
trol of the Diet, which it effec-  
tively monopolized for the last  
38 years, in the upcoming  
elections on July 18, according  
to political analysts here.  
As a consequence of recent  
dissensions within the party  
over political reforms, the LDP  
last week suffered the most  
serious setback since its estab-  
lishment in 1955.  
The previous week saw the  
formation of two new political  
parties by breakaway factions  
of the party favouring political  
reform.  
On Wednesday, a group of  
44 former LDP Diet members,  
including 36 Lower House  
members, led by former  
Finance Minister Tsutomu  
Hata set up a new party named  
Shinseto or New Life Party.  
Earlier, another 10 junior  
members of the Lower House  
led by Masayoshi Takemura, a  
former governor of the Shiga

## Imported pulp would be cheaper

By Sohel Manzur  
The Karnaphuli Paper Mills  
(KPM) Limited can be made  
more profitable if it produces  
paper from imported pulp  
rather than the pulp manufac-  
tured by the company itself,  
according to a mills official.  
The official, while talking to  
The Daily Star during a visit to  
the factory by this correspon-  
dent on Wednesday last, said  
such a move would help de-  
velop the quality of the papers  
produced as well as reduce the  
cost of production since im-  
ported pulp is cheaper and  
better in quality.  
He said that it would also  
help protect the environment  
since local bamboo and wood  
would not be required for the  
mills.  
The production cost of pulp  
in the KPM was estimated at  
Tk 25,500 per metric tonne  
while the international market  
price ranges between 490 to  
590 US dollar, (equivalent to  
Tk 19,600 and Tk 23,600) per  
metric tonne, the official, pre-  
See Page 12 Col 1

## Karnaphuli Paper Mills seeks govt help

By Staff Correspondent  
The Karnaphuli Paper Mills  
(KPM) Limited would have to  
raise prices of its products by  
11 per cent unless the govern-  
ment takes immediate cost  
cutting measures.  
Managing Director of the  
company A K M Ishaq told a  
group of newsmen who visited  
the factory on Wednesday that  
the production costs had in-  
creased by 14 per cent during  
the last three years because of  
enhanced gas, electricity,  
bamboo and wood prices, an  
increase in the tariff value on  
raw materials and implementa-  
tion of a new pay scale.  
It was estimated that the  
KPM, situated at Chandraghona  
in Rangamati, had to spend an  
additional Tk 7 crore 32 lakh  
in fiscal 1992-93 for the in-  
creased rates, of which an ad-  
ditional sum of Tk 1.7 crore  
was spent for gas, Tk 33 lakh  
for electricity, Tk 52 lakh for  
bamboo, Tk 80 lakh for wood,  
Tk 1.10 crore for increase in  
the tariff value and Tk 2.37  
crore for implementing the  
new pay scale.  
The Managing Director,  
however, said that the KPM  
would make a profit of Tk 1.10  
crore in the current fiscal year  
despite the increased cost of  
production.  
He said the factory had  
been facing a crisis in collect-  
ing bamboo from its own 240  
square miles of land in the  
Chittagong Hill Tracts since  
1986 because of the activities  
of the outlawed Shantabahini.  
The KPM collected about  
15,000 tonnes of bamboo,  
about one sixth of its needs,  
from its own land in the cur-  
rent year, A K M Ishaq in-  
formed.  
Technological limitations  
because of the obsolescence of  
its machinery also prevents  
the KPM, set up in 1953, from  
improving the quality of its  
products, Ishaq said, adding  
that the plant needed to be  
modernised immediately to  
keep pace with similar indus-  
tries in other countries.  
See Page 12 Col 1

## Curfew as strike turns violent in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, June 25:  
Authorities imposed an  
overnight curfew in the Nepali  
capital of Kathmandu after a  
strike called by the country's  
Communist Party turned vio-  
lent today, state-run radio said,  
reports Reuters.  
Scores of people were in-  
jured in clashes between po-  
lice and communist workers,  
police officials said.  
The radio said the curfew  
would remain in force until  
Saturday morning.  
Police in Kathmandu fired  
tear gas and rubber bullets to  
stop activists of the Unified  
Marxist Leninist (UML) Party  
setting up roadblocks with  
burning tyres, witnesses said.  
The UML, the country's  
main opposition party, called  
the strike to protest at the  
death of its General Secretary,  
Madan Bhandari, in a road ac-  
cident on May 16.  
It wants the government to  
set up an inquiry into  
Bhandari's death, saying he  
may have been murdered.  
Police said some people  
hurled stones a government  
building and thwarted at-  
tempts to operate state-owned  
transport in Kathmandu.

## Capital market neglected: DSE chief

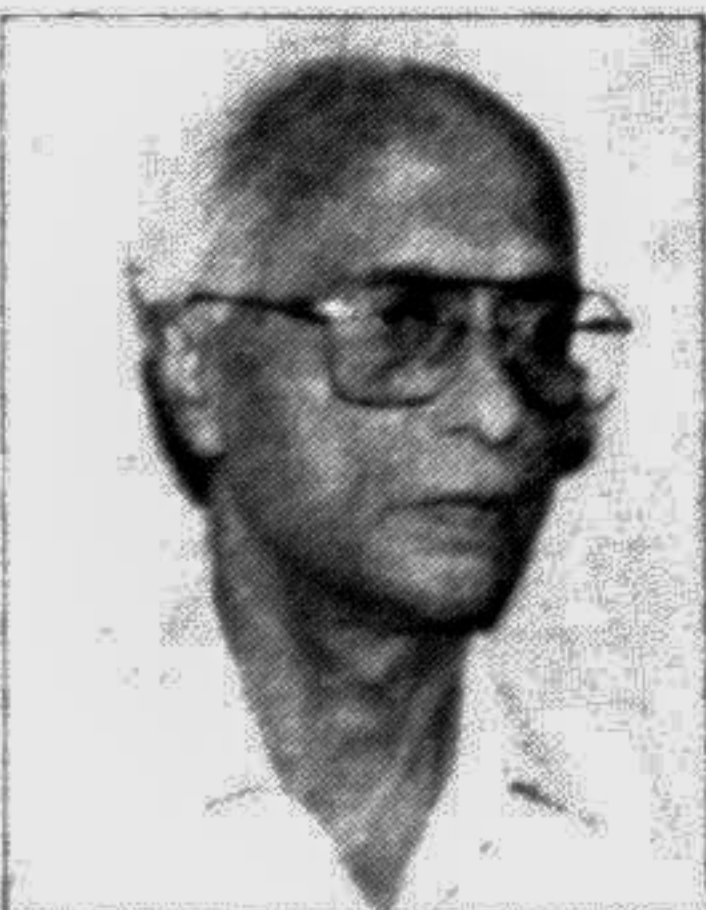
Star Report  
The chairman of Dhaka  
Stock Exchange (DSE), Aminul  
Islam Khan, feels that the pro-  
posed budget for 1993-94 has  
neglected the capital market  
and left little room for aug-  
menting its growth.  
In an exclusive interview  
with The Daily Star, the DSE  
chief said the budget should  
have proposed more tax relief  
for the companies listed with  
the DSE.  
He said under the new defi-  
nition of public traded com-  
pany, non-manufacturing com-  
panies offering at least one  
third shares to the public and  
listed with the DSE are to pay  
corporate tax at the rate of 40  
per cent compared to the pre-  
vious rate of 45 per cent.  
The rate should have been  
reduced further with a view to  
ensuring a reasonably good dif-  
ference between listed and  
non-listed companies. This  
would have acted as an incen-  
tive for development of the  
capital market, Khan said.  
At present, the difference in  
corporate tax rates between  
listed and non-listed com-  
panies is only five per cent, not  
quite significant an incentive  
to attract companies to go  
public, he observed.  
Khan lauded the budget's  
proposal for exempting in-  
come tax deduction at source  
on individual dividend earn-  
ings upto Taka 5000.  
"Along with this, raising the  
ceiling of individual tax ex-  
emption to Taka 50,000 as  
against Taka 40,000 would en-  
courage savings of small in-  
vestors," he felt. This will  
help in pooling the savings of  
the limited income group,"  
Khan added.  
The DSE chairman also  
welcomed the reduction of  
duty rate on cotton from 7.5  
per cent to 3.75 per cent.  
This will help the spinning  
mills boost their production  
and improve corporate per-  
formance. This is needed for  
See Page 12 Col 8

## Book importers refuse to release consignments

By Sharier Khan  
Foreign books worth about  
Tk 50 lakh are awaiting re-  
lease in the customs godowns  
of Benapole and Chittagong  
port following complications  
over the rate of import duties.  
The Finance Minister, in  
his budget speech on June 10  
last, proposed a 7.5 per cent  
import duty on books, pre-  
viously exempt from such  
charge.  
Book importers, deeply  
concerned at the imposition of  
fresh duties — which became  
effective from June 10 — told  
The Daily Star that they were  
not taking delivery of those  
books because the Benapole  
and Chittagong port customs  
are fixing duties against the  
cover prices instead of their  
actual rates.  
They said books are im-  
ported from England, the USA,  
Holland, Japan and India — all  
at discounts, ranging from ten  
to even fifty per cent.  
An official of the National  
Board of Revenue (NBR), when  
asked, said that there were  
customs rules to fix duties  
against the maximum retail  
price of a product.  
He said, "In case of books,  
the customs rules require fix-  
ing of duties against the prices  
See Page 12 Col 3

## Day Against Drug Abuse today

The Day Against Drug Abuse  
and Trafficking declared by  
the United Nations will be ob-  
served today in the country as  
elsewhere in the world, re-  
ports BSS.  
Different socio-cultural or-  
ganisations have chalked out  
elaborate programmes in ob-  
servance of the day which in-  
clude holding of discussion,  
rally, street drama, distribu-  
tion and display of leaflets,  
posters and stickers.  
Narcotics Control Depart-  
ment has organised a rally  
which will start at 6.30 am  
today from Children Park and  
disperse at the Osmani  
Memorial auditorium parading  
the city streets.  
See Page 12 Col 4



Aminul Islam Khan