

The Daily Star

PUBLIC
DEBATE

Today, on Page 4, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, MP, and Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party argues that the next general elections should be held under a caretaker government. Readers' opinions on the subject are welcome.

PM chairs crucial NEC meet today

Allocation for next ADP likely to be slashed

By Inam Ahmed

The National Economic Council (NEC) meets today to decide the fate of next year's Annual Development Programme (ADP), already dubbed by many as "over ambitious".

The NEC meeting to be presided by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is being seen as very crucial by experts because it will have to chart a careful course between two harsh realities — an unexpectedly poor implementation rate the outgoing fiscal and a record high allocation for the next.

Next year's ADP outlay has

been estimated at Tk 11,000 crore, about Tk 1200 crore more than this year's.

However, this figure is likely to undergo changes, because many feel it will be hard to meet the target under the present implementation capability of the government.

This assumption is backed by the current year's implementation outcome which shows a severe shortfall. According to Finance Ministry sources, different government agencies have been able to use only about 52 per cent of the revised ADP till April this

year. Of the Tk 9600 crore revised ADP against an original Tk 9750 crore, only Tk 5258 crore has been used during the ten months of the current fiscal year. It is unlikely the remaining two months would make any drastic improvement of this figure, sources said.

Interestingly the government, before the Paris Club meeting in April, had estimated its revised ADP at Tk 8500 crore and the next year's ADP at 10,600 crore.

"But we, for the first time, See Page 12 Col 7



FATE ON THE MAKE: Abahani's Iraqi striker Nazar Ali Hassan sends the ball into the Brothers goal with a deft flick past a helpless custodian Ponir in yesterday's final of the third DMFA Cup at the Dhaka Stadium. The goal ensured Abahani's first-ever DMFA Cup triumph. —Star photo

Political impasse
Hasina exchanging
views with party's
policy-making
bodies

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina begins an exchange of views with the members of her party's policy-making bodies today to discuss ways of realising the demand for general elections under a caretaker government.

Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to first sit with the members of the advisory council. She is likely to have another meeting with the presidium members tomorrow.

AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, talking to The Daily Star last night, said the meetings would discuss the outlines of a caretaker government prepared by an eight-member committee of the party.

"Once finalised by the party committees, we shall take up See Page 12 Col 7

Abahani refuse DMFA Cup

By Chandrashekhar Das

Abahani Krira Chakra's maiden DMFA Cup triumph lost its gloss and mirth as the winners of the third version of the trophy following their 1-0 victory over former champions Brothers Union in a rowdy final that had a heady mixture of three marching orders, crowd trouble and obvious hold-ups at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Nazar Ali Hussain, Abahani's useful Iraqi recruit, scored the match-winning in the 14th minute of the match.

In the end it was a fitting end to the curtain-raising meet of this year's domestic soccer season that was begotten by confusion upon hostility. Blighted by discord between the organisers Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) and the two top clubs the meet, which survived a couple of disruptions midway was, however, poised for a remark-

ably sound finish yesterday as the two teams despite their limitations appeared game enough till almost the end to make a match of a finale.

But trouble broke out when referee Mansoor gave the marching order to Abahani's star defender and captain Monem Munna for two yellow cards. The Abahani captain did leave the field quietly but a large contingent of the sky-blues' supporters were fuelled enough to indulge in a clash involving the rival supporters and the members of the law enforcing agencies.

When play resumed with barely five minutes to go, two players — Abahani's Mintu and Brothers' Ranjan — got involved in a clash following a foul and a free-for-all caused another hold up of about four minutes.

The bearded man in black from Khulna, known for his propensity to card-flashing,

duly ousted the two offenders with the red card, and the match was duly played to its conclusion.

But the salubrious spirit was irrevocably lost as the ground turned into a busy public mall with the cack-handed policemen out of their depths in their attempt to ensure a tolerable atmosphere for the distribution of prizes. Although announcement was made from the rostrum and the chief guest Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, who is also the president of the Bangladesh Football Federation, was duly present neither the runners-up nor the champions came out.

"We are not taking the trophy as a mark of protest against poor security, poor administration and poor refereeing," sounded off Beximco's Salim F Rahman, chairman of the Abahani Limited.

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500 massacred in Rwanda over the weekend

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Proud but Lonely Krishna Chandra Page 3

NAM confce opens with call for greater adaptability

CAIRO, May 31: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak opened a non-aligned foreign ministers' meeting today, telling the movement it had to change or face irrelevance in the post-cold war world, reports Reuter.

In a keynote address, Mubarak said the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) founded in 1961 by countries that wanted to avoid being dragged into the East-West standoff, had to "face new realities ... in this changing world."

"If we don't act with open minds and great adaptability, we will be justifying the argument that the movement has become empty of content, an image without reality," he said. "Renewal and development are the only way towards survival and progress."

In one sign of changed times, South Africa was admit-

ted as a full member of the NAM following its transition to majority rule after non-racial elections last month.

Delegates, clapped as South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo took his seat in the conference hall, Pretoria's admission raised the Movement's membership to 109.

The NAM has been trying to modernise itself since the cold war, swapping the angry rhetoric of the past for phrases about partnership and cooperation with the rich North.

Talk of imperialism and colonialism has been cut in a draft statement before ministers at the four-day Cairo meeting, the first major non-aligned gathering since a 1992 Jakarta summit.

Mubarak, speaking amid tight security at a gleaming congress centre just a few hundred yards from the review

stand where president Anwar Sadat was assassinated in 1981 said the movement had to respond to changes in the international system.

It had to promote the political and economic interests of the developing countries but also talk to international bodies "with the language they understand."

"The world has resorted to new types of economic cooperation between North and South," he said, citing the signing earlier this year of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"As developing countries we have to deal with this reality in such a way as to achieve balance between the interests of advanced and developing countries," said Mubarak.

Egypt helped found the See Page 12 Col 5

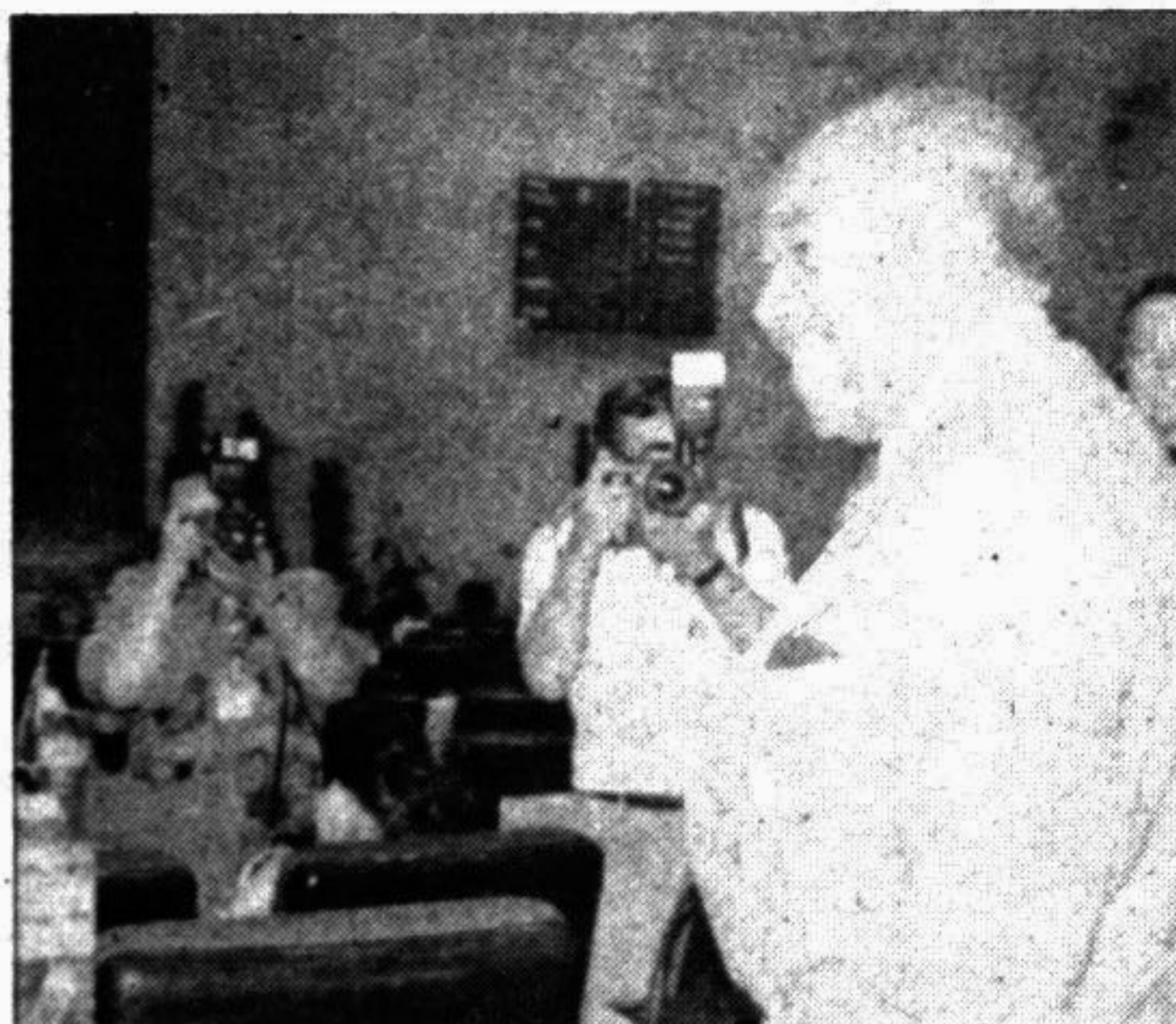
Mubarak to visit Bangladesh

CAIRO, May 31: Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, now here to attend the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) foreign ministers' conference, called on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today, reports BSS.

During the meeting the Foreign Minister discussed matters of bilateral concern and international issues with the Egyptian leader.

Mostafizur Rahman conveyed to President Mubarak the greetings from President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and renewed their invitations to him to visit Bangladesh soon at his convenience.

The Egyptian leader cordially accepted the invitation and expressed his intention to visit Bangladesh at the earliest opportunity.



South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo arrives at the opening session of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Cairo yesterday. — AFP photo

Flash floods in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, May 31: Standing crops on at least 30,000 acres have gone under water due to flash floods caused by the onrush of waters from the hilly areas of India in the last 24 hours.

At least 10 country boats carrying stones from quarries sank this morning in the river Dhalai in Companiganj thana where the water level is rising steadily.

The villages of Nijpat, Jaintapur, Charikati and Dharbat unions under the Jaintapur thana have been inundated while the rivers in Sari, Baragang, Nayagang and Rangpani have risen alarmingly.

Four stone quarries under Gowainghat thana were inundated. See Page 12 Col 7

Biman short-lists 3 firms for airbuses

By Staff Correspondent

The Biman authorities have short listed three firms whose offers are technically viable for procuring two French-made airbuses for the national carrier.

After one and a half months of evaluation, the technical committee submitted a report recommending that the offers of Aircraft Leasing and Management, the Japan Fleet Service and Partners are technically sound.

The report was discussed at a meeting of the Biman board of directors yesterday. The matter has been kept pending until the next meeting for final decision, sources said.

Biman received 11 offers against a tender notice to procure two A-310-300 aircraft. Three of the bids were rejected on the spot when the technical offers were opened on April 11. The remaining eight offers were sent to the See Page 12 Col 7

Women's participation in development a must: PM

The Prime Minister yesterday said that a meaningful development would be impossible keeping the women community neglected and deprived of their rights, reports UNB.

She was addressing a national seminar on "Equality, Development and Peace for the Advancement of Women and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)" at the International Conference Centre in the city.

"Human resource is the key element of development. By human resource we mean both men and women," Begum Zia said.

"If there is no equality, if peace is disturbed and if discrimination persists, there can't be development," she observed.

Presided over by State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Sarwari Rahman, the seminar was also addressed by Secretary of the Ministry Mohammad Enamul Haq.

Begum Zia said that the overall status of the country's women could not yet reach the desired level. "It is a matter of great pain for us that repression on women and discrimination against them still exist in our society," she added.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for education and awareness among women. She pointed out that the existing problems cannot be solved through framing of laws alone.

Begum Zia said her gov- See page 12 Col 3

Mayor for DCC control over city's service bodies

Mayor Mohammad Hanif has pleaded for a legal provision enabling the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to have some control over the city's service organisations for proper coordination of development works, reports UNB.

"Dhaka has become a digging city due to lack of coordination among autonomous bodies and other organisations. This has made the development works more complicated," he observed.

Hanif suggested at a meeting with journalists and NGO representatives here yesterday that WASA, DESA, T&T and DMP be placed under the DCC or those organisations be made accountable and answerable to the mayor for their work in the city.

The DCC Mayor, who is the ex-officio chairman of a coordination committee, said it is not functioning well as "I can only request them to do a work but have nothing to do if they do not comply with my request."

He sought cooperation from all in addressing the multifarious problems of the city dwellers.

The mayor expressed his determination to materialise his election commitments that the DCC would be kept above party politics, holding tax would not be increased and the city would be freed from mosquito menace and terrorism.

Referring to the shortage of fund, the city mayor said that he had met with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who assured him of a special allocation in the next budget.

He announced that surcharges would be exempted for those who would pay their holding tax by June 30 next.

Hanif said DCC will take up a 'realistic programme' soon to free city from mosquito menace, import trolly buses to ease the transport problem, form committees headed by ward See Page 12 Col 2

Govt waives entire interest on agri* loans up to Tk 5000

The government has waived the entire interest, penal and normal, on cooperative agricultural loans up to Tk 5,000, an official announcement said last night, reports UNB.

Earlier, the government had exempted 100 per cent penal interest and 50 per cent normal interest on such loans.

The announcement further said cooperative farmers are now to pay the principal amount in ten instalments spreading over five years without any interest. Repayment in instalments will start from July next.

It further said cooperative farmers will be entitled to fresh loans when they start paying the instalments.

The government expressed the hope that cooperative farmers will take advantage of the facility extended to them and actively contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

Tk 120.14cr RCC budget for '94-95

RAJSHAHI, May 31: A Tk 120.14 crore budget of the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) for 1994-95 was announced today, reports UNB.

RCC Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu announced the budget at a meeting of the corporation at its office.

Current year's budget of the city corporation, was Tk 46 crore.

The budget for the next fiscal envisages Tk 10,00,98,750 as revenue income. Tk 40 crore will come as development assistance. Another Tk 65 crore will be mobilised for special development programmes.

The major expenditure includes Tk 9,65,49,632 revenue expenditure, Tk 40 crore for development activity and Tk 65 crore for special development programmes.

No fresh taxes were imposed this year.

Leghari accused of taking \$ 2.5 lakh in kickbacks

ISLAMABAD, May 31: The main opposition party alleged that President Farooq Leghari received millions of rupees in illegal kickbacks, a charge that sparked angry denials and chaotic shouting matches Tuesday in the National Assembly, reports AP.

Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, members of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), are locked in an increasingly bitter feud with the conservative Pakistan Muslim League (PML), and the latest development is sure to heighten tensions.

The conservative PML claimed that Leghari accepted 7.5 million rupees (250,000 dollars) last year from the Mehran Bank, which is embroiled in scandal. The bank's founder is under arrest and suspected of embezzling more than 30 million dollars.

*Farooq Leghari is a corrupt

man as demonstrated in the manner he received kickbacks from the Mehran Bank," said a statement by the PML. The opposition demands that Farooq Leghari resign immediately.

The president is visiting the United States and was not immediately available for comment. His supporters, in-

Ban on use of mosque loudspeakers

ISLAMABAD, May 31: Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's cabinet decided on Monday to enforce a ban on Mullahs using mosque loudspeakers for speeches that have often fanned political and sectarian tensions, reports Reuter.

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cluding Law Minister Iqbal Haider, said the charge was fabricated.

When PML leader Nawaz Sharif made the accusations on the floor of the National Assembly, it immediately touched off a shouting match between the parties.

Yousaf Gilani, the speaker of the assembly and a member of the People's Party, suspended the debate and said the personal conduct of the President could not be discussed in Parliament. The assembly reconvened briefly in the afternoon, but the PML boycotted the session.

In Pakistan's rough-and-tumble politics, rival parties routinely accuse each other of unethical and illegal behavior. Many politicians acknowledge that there is widespread corruption in the country's political system.

See Page 12 Col 8

NOW FOR THE BIG ONE

The BUMPER Daily Star World Cup Quiz

BEGINS FROM TODAY - See Page 11

Entries for Quiz 5 can be sent upto 5th June

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