

## 8 killed, 80 injured in road mishaps

At least 8 people were killed and 80 injured in two road accidents in Sirajganj and Gopalganj yesterday, reports UNB.

Six people were killed, 30 others injured, 24 seriously, when a night coach plunged into a ditch at Haliagati in Shahjapur thana on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway yesterday, police said.

The accident occurred when the Kurigram-bound coach coming from Dhaka collided with a speedy truck coming from the opposite direction on Haliagati bridge killing six people on the spot.

The identities of the dead and injured could not be ascertained immediately. All the seriously injured were admitted to the Potajia Health Complex, police added.

The truck driver managed to escape with his vehicle and the bus driver and helper also fled the scene.

A case was filed with the police.

In another incident a man was killed after falling from the rooftop of a speedy bus near the Nalka bridge in Raiganj thana on the Sirajganj-Bogra road Saturday night, police said.

The mishap occurred when the driver of the Sirajganj-bound bus coming from Bogra made a sudden break at the point. The unidentified man died on the spot.

A case was filed with the Raiganj police.

Another report from Gopalganj says: Two people were killed and 50 injured, 30 seriously, when a night coach skidded into a ditch from the Gopalganj-Takerhat highway at Karpura in sadar thana yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred when the driver of the Dhaka-bound bus from Khulna lost control.

The identities of the dead and the injured could not be ascertained immediately. Bodies were sent to the Gopalganj Hospital morgue.

The seriously injured were admitted to the Faridpur, Rajoir and Gopalganj hospitals, medical sources said.

The bus driver and helper fled the scene. A case was filed with the Gopalganj sadar thana in this connection.

## Lebanon rejects talks with Israel

BEIRUT, June 12: Lebanon has rejected a US plea to resume peace talks with Israel in the absence of Syria, a government official said today, reports AFP.

The request was turned down by Prime Minister Rafic Hariri who is anxious to protect cooperation agreements with Syria and to reach a global Arab-Israeli peace settlement, said the official requesting anonymity.

Hariri publicly ruled out a separate peace deal with Israel late Saturday during a speech in Sidon and said Israeli attacks 'will not force us to sign a separate peace with Israel or even consider discussing such a deal.'

Bilateral talks between Israel and Lebanon have been suspended since the Hebron Mosque massacre on February 25.

Hariri said Lebanon entered peace talks with Israel in co-ordination with Syria to secure a withdrawal from South Lebanon as well as the Golan Heights, which Israel seized.

## Janakantha editor allowed free movement

High Court Division of the Supreme Court takes up today the anticipatory bail petition filed by Atiqullah Khan Masud, editor of the daily Janakantha, reports UNB.

The bench comprising Justice D M Ansaruddin and Justice Nurul Islam issued order that Khan be allowed free movement till disposal of the petition.

Khan himself appeared before the court with an anticipatory bail petition.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate had issued June 8 warrants of arrest against Khan and 3 other editors of the Janakantha upon a criminal case filed by Motiheel police. Following the order advisory editor Toab Khan and executive editor Borhanuddin Ahmed were arrested and sent to jail.

## Extortionists clash with tempo workers in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A group of extortionists and tempo workers clashed near Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) gate No-1, Lalbagh, over toll collection leaving at least a dozen of people injured.

The rival groups chased each other with lethal weapons and exploded crackers around 11 in the morning.

Of the injured, six tempo workers — Akbar, Jaker, Sabar, Alam, Peraz, Badsha — were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Lalbagh police brought the situation under control. Police arrested one Kabir for his alleged involvement in the clash.

## JCD, BCL clash in Sirajganj: 17 injured

SIRAJGANJ, June 12: The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and the Chhatra League supporters clashed at the Jamtail rail station in Kamarkhand thana at 10 last night, leaving at least 17 injured, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said Huda, Cultural Secretary of the JCD Haji Korop Ali Memorial College unit, was admitted to the Sirajganj Hospital in critical condition.

The clash began allegedly over the sharing of toll collected from the contractors of a building of Jamtail Girls High School.

A case has been lodged with the Kamarkhand police.

## Southern dists motor workers call off strike

JHENIDAH, June 12: Road communication of 16 southern districts with the capital Dhaka has been restored from today after a day-long strike called by a thana-level motor workers union, reports UNB.

Inter-district road communication in Khulna and Barisal divisions was also restored following the call off.

## Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina addressing the striking non-government school and college teachers in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

## Hartal: Teachers

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day yesterday to press home their demands including implementation of the national pay-scale for the private schools and colleges.

Some 2.5 lakh teachers and employees of about 11,000 private schools and colleges have been continuing their strike since April 18 last.

The liaison committee after nearly a six-hour meeting also decided to continue the sit-in tomorrow.

After tomorrow's eight-hour hartal, the committee leaders would announce the next course of action at a rally at the sit-in venue at 3 pm.

The striking teachers and employees passed their second day of their sit-in by listening to the political leaders and the leaders of the liaison committee.

The demonstrators received several sack-loads of chira, muri and goor from the Awami League chief and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina.

They also listened to songs, and poetry recitations presented by teachers.

UNB adds: Jatiya Party has extended its support to the hartal called for Tuesday by non-government teachers of schools and colleges to press for their demands that include higher pay-scale.

In a statement, JP leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury last night criticised the government for not resolving the problem of the teachers through discussion.

The government's hard line has forced the teachers to go for an extreme programme like hartal, he said.

## Kashmiri town under curfew

SRINAGAR, June 12: A curfew was enforced today in the Kashmiri town of Kishtwar after the slaying of a Hindu politician by suspected Muslim guerillas heightened tension, the police said, reports AFP.

Subhash Jain, a local leader of the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was gunned down Saturday evening, said Inspector-General of Police Surinder Singh Wazir.

The curfew has been imposed as there was much tension between the two communities," he said.

Kishtwar is in the mountainous district of Doda in the Jammu region.

## Cypriot vessel poses oil-spill threat to Goa

NEW DELHI, June 12: A Cypriot-registered vessel grounded by strong gales is posing a major oil-spill threat to the tourist paradise of Goa in western India, news reports said Sunday, reports AP.

Rough weather is hampering salvage operations as the vessel, laden with 640 tons of heavy diesel fuel, is precariously balanced on a huge rock, the Economic Times reported.

Partially-flooded MV Sea Princess may break up in bad weather or sink, releasing its cargo on to the famous Goa beaches.

The newspaper said the ecological damage to the marine flora and fauna would be immense.

Indian coast guard authorities have rescued the 31 crew of the vessel and sought help from a Singapore pollution control and disaster management company.

The authorities said efforts were being made to transfer the stricken vessel's cargo to storage containers.

Three other ships which drifted toward the Goa shore in last Sunday's squall have since been floated and anchored outside the harbour.

## FBCCI, Japanese discuss investment

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Haque, FBCCI President Mahabur Rahman, MCCI President Latifur Rahman, other top business leaders, secretaries concerned and some senior government officials.

Opening the discussions, FBCCI President Mahabur Rahman said Bangladesh presents itself in a most attractive framework in terms of government outlook to host foreign investment and socio-economic orientation of the vast workforce.

He informed the delegation that an exclusive industrial estate for Japanese investors as well as adequate infrastructural facilities to reach the estate had been offered to the Japanese investors.

Highlighting various fiscal and economic liberalisation measures, he said cheap labour force, currently comprising 35 million people, in addition to management personnel is another economic condition for investing in Bangladesh.

Rahman hoped that the Japanese investors would enter into the Bangladesh economic arena in a large and meaningful way and start "an external trade-related manufacturing initiative" in the country.

Referring to the government-level relations between the two countries, Morshed Khan said an excellent government-level relationship can create a vehicle for excellent relationship between private

## AL to meet all demands

From Page 1 Col 7

"Arrange elections under caretaker government if you believe in democracy and have confidence in people's power," the AL chief said referring to the ruling party chief. She claimed that 69 per cent of the people's representatives in parliament now support elections under a caretaker government. But the BNP was showing intransigence even knowing that it was a popular demand, she added.

Addressing the agitating teachers, Moudud Ahmed said all social forces were now demanding an end to the BNP rule. Teachers, students, workers, political activists and others were agitating against the government, he said.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, Presidium member Amir Hossain Amu, Mayor Mohammad Hanif, JP leader Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shaikh Ansar Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami also addressed the gathering.

## Better late than never!

GENEVA, June 12: The skull of a man hanged as a conspirator in the assassination of president Lincoln 129 years ago is coming back to Florida to be buried next to his mother, reports AP.

Lewis Thornton Powell, who used the alias Lewis Payne, was a 21-year-old Confederate soldier who tried and failed to kill Lincoln's secretary of state, William Seward, on April 14, 1865, the same evening that John Wilkes Booth fatally shot the president at Ford's Theater.

In 1991, the Smithsonian Institution discovered his skull among thousands of bones kept in a storage bin.

The Smithsonian agreed to release the remains to Powell's closest relative, Helen Alderman, 72, of Geneva, Smithsonian anthropologist David Hunt said Friday.

"I'm certainly glad this is over," Alderman, a great-niece, said from her summer home in North Carolina.

A burial ceremony is planned for October.

Powell's grave was moved several times. Researchers believe a funeral home director kept the skull after one glove and later gave it to the army's medical museum, which transferred the skull to the Smithsonian in 1898.

## Businessman killed in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, June 12: Miscreants killed a young businessman and looted Tk 1.60 lakh from Ibne Sina Flour Mills at Malgudam road in the town early today, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Abdul Latif Khan Almas, 32, son of Abdul Hakim of Guntina village in Kalihati thana of Tangail district, who obtained MA from Dhaka University in 1993.

Police said a gang of miscreants broke into the mill, put a flour sack on his face and choked him to death before looting the money.

A case has been filed with the Sadar thana in this connection.

## One shot dead in Jessore clash

JESSORE, June 12: A teenage boy was shot dead and several others wounded when rival groups fought in the heart of the town this evening, reports UNB.

Arman, 18, shot on the chest, died on way to hospital. Shahin and Enamul were admitted to hospital with gun shots. They are residents of city Collegepara Colony.

Police and witnesses said rival groups of Barandi Mollapara and Barandi Kadamtala engaged in the fighting over the share of goods smuggled into the town from across the border. They traded about 15 gun shots and 50 hand made bombs.

Some others injured in the fighting did not report to the hospital to avoid arrest.

In another incident in the town tonight, two youngmen with burn injuries from explosives were admitted to the hospital.

Police said Abdul Latif and Rahim Sheikh were injured in a clash at old Kashiba area at 8 pm today over the sale of a motor cycle.

## Export more

From Page 1 Col 4

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He pointed out that the trade gap between Bangladesh and Japan was huge and it should be reduced through mutual cooperation in trade and investment.

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## JS discussion

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out the prior approval of Parliament.

The credibility of the budget will be questioned if the government and the Parliament do not have any control on it, he said.

Siddiki pointed out irregularities in the implementation of various development projects and expenditure against those and said that in many cases, estimated funds were exhausted before completion of the work.

He said the ministries concerned should come up with answers for their failure in utilising the budgetary allocations in the ADP.

The other treasury bench member, Osman Gani Khan, wanted to know why Tk 483 crore had been earmarked for the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge when the project was yet to start.

Khan was critical of additional allocation of about Tk 104 crore for the defence on account of new manpower and construction of houses and offices. This should not come to the supplementary budget as there was no sanction for those in the budget, he said.

The way additional money was sought in the supplementary budget is not convincing and the Parliament cannot sanction money in this manner, he said.

O G Khan demanded that the supplementary budget should be scrutinised like the budget.

The discussion will be resumed when the House meets today at 4.30 pm.

## 2nd phase of Euro polls begins

BRUSSELS, June 12: European leaders prepared for a blast of criticism from voters today, with Spain's Felipe Gonzales, Germany's Helmut Kohl and Britain's John Major having most to lose. The second phase of European Parliament elections got under way in eight European Union countries, giving voters the chance to vent varying degrees of anger at their government. Polling took place in Italy, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Greece, Portugal and France. Voters in Britain, the Netherlands, Denmark and Ireland cast their ballots on Thursday, but the results will not be known until after today's vote, reports Reuter.

## 'Jointly formulate policies for neutral polls'

CHITTAGONG, June 12: Speakers at a seminar on "Caretaker Government and Election Commission in Bangladesh Context" here today called upon the ruling party and the Opposition to jointly formulate policies to hold a fair and impartial election under the overall "supervision of the Election Commission," reports BSS.

They pointed out that the arguments in favour of forming a caretaker government were not negligible, but formation of such a government was against the spirit of democracy during the tenure of an elected government.

The arguments put forward to by the Opposition for a

## The Midnight File

### Fresh violence in Karachi

KARACHI, June 12: Violence erupted in this southern Pakistani port today after gunmen killed two workers of the ethnic-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) triggering riots by outraged residents, police sources said. They said unidentified gunmen riding a cab opened fire on the MQM workers soon after they came out of a mosque after saying their dawn prayers in the eastern district of Korangi. The victims were sprayed with bullets in the chest, police said, reports AFP.

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### Strike motivated

From Page 1 Col 7

House a report on the allegations of two opposition MPs that "the Bangladesh mission in Washington does not hoist the national flag at the mission building."

The House also started debate on the supplementary budget yesterday.

Education Minister Sircar said, many of the teachers have joined their duties after all their demands except two, were met.

Most of the leaders of the movement are not teachers, Sircar said adding that "teaching is not a mere profession but also a mission."

"Those who are still on strike want to push the country towards anarchy and make parliament ineffective ... they are guided by political motives."

"It is clearly manifested from the fact that the Leader of the Opposition and Jatiya Party and Workers Party leaders addressed the striking teachers."

He regretted that non-government teachers had tried to realise their demands at the cost of the future of SSC examinations. He assured the House that the HSC examinations due in August will be held in time and the authorities have taken all steps necessary to hold the examinations smoothly.

Teachers from some 11,000 private high schools and 640 non-government colleges have started an indefinite sit-in in Dhaka to realise their 15-point charter of demands, including implementation of the government pay scale for them.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam, who is one of the negotiators from the government side, having talks with the leaders of the striking teachers, supplemented Sircar's statement and said "the strike is politically motivated."

"We sat with them also on Friday. We agreed to raise the teachers' benefit by 5 per cent more to make it 75 per cent, but they demanded a 10 per cent rise."

The minister said "they wanted to meet the Prime Minister. The PM agreed and the meeting time was fixed at 8.30 pm. But they did not turn up ... It seems a certain quarter prevailed upon them not to come to the meeting."

"Their leader Mohammad Kamruzzaman is a presidium member of the Awami League and another leader, Kazi Farooq Ahmed is the younger brother of Jatiya Party leader Kazi Zafar Ahmed," Tariqul mentioned.

"It is no wonder that they are influenced by the opposition parties."

He questioned the justifiability of the demand of equal benefits enjoyed by the government teachers and said they are not in the government service.

"We hope they will come out of the clutches of the politicians, call off the strike and return to duty soon," he added.

The minister said "We still respect the teachers but if the situation worsens, the government would have to take immediate steps for proper functioning of the schools and teachers."

The session resumes today at 4.30 pm.

### Export more

From Page 1 Col 4

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He pointed out that the trade gap between Bangladesh and Japan was huge and it should be reduced through mutual cooperation in trade and investment.

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