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The Daily Star

Cash 24hr
 Standard Chartered
 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

VOL. V NO. 127 REGD. NO. DA 781 JAISHTHA 17, 1402 BS, DHAKA WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1995 ZILHAJJ 30, 1415 HIJRI

BUDGET '95-96
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 Chairman of Bangladesh Jute
 Spinners Association.
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STOCK MARKET

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| DSE price index | 688.90 (-0.87%) |
| Market capitalisation | Tk 41.39 billion |
| Turnover in volume | 69932 |
| Turnover in value | Tk 10.84 million |

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NEWS BRIEFS

Ashura June 10
 Tomorrow is the first Muharram, the beginning of the Hijri new year, 1416, a press release of the Islamic Foundation said here last night. The decision was taken at a meeting with Religious Affairs Minister M. Keramat Ali in the chair held at the Islamic Foundation. The press release also said that the Muharram moon was not sighted anywhere in Bangladesh yesterday. Therefore, the first Muharram will be on Thursday and the holy Ashura will be observed on June 10, reports BSS.

ROK investors go to Ctg today

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, May 30: A 16-member team of the South Korean investors arrives here tomorrow. The team will exchange views with the members of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) at its conference room at 3:30 pm tomorrow. The visit of the Korean team is a follow-up of the Prime Minister's tour of South Korea recently.

Illegal goods worth Tk 1.75cr seized

CHITTAGONG, May 30: The Chittagong customs officials seized 574 cartons of illegally imported colour TV and air-conditioners worth Taka one crore and seventy-five lakh from the Chittagong port today, sources said. The goods were imported under false declaration as parts and components worth Taka six lakh from Singapore by a private party in the city, officials said.

Current programme revised downward Tk 12100cr ADP outlay for next fiscal

By Krishna P Roy
 The Annual Development Programme (ADP) outlay for fiscal 1995-96 has been fixed at Tk 12100 crore, while that of the ADP for the current fiscal has now been revised downward, to Tk 11150 crore, official sources said.
 Evaluating the progress of implementation of the ADP during the first nine months of the current fiscal, last month it was revised upward, to Tk 11350 crore, as against its original outlay of Tk 11000 crore.
 The implementation performance of the ADP during the first nine months of this fiscal was about 55 per cent, which was 8 per cent higher than that of the corresponding period of the last fiscal, the sources said.
 The proposed ADP for 95-96 and the revised ADP for '94-95 were placed at a pre-budget consultation, held recently with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.
 The present ADP has been revised because about Tk 200 crore still remains unutilised with eight ministries and 20 agencies of the government, the sources said.
 In the proposed ADP, the highest allocation of Tk 1600 crore would go to education and religion sectors as against the allocation of Tk 1543 crore in the current fiscal's revised ADP.
 Power sector would get the second highest allocation of Tk 1196 crore in the proposed ADP as against Tk 1293 crore in the revised ADP, while the third highest allocation of Tk 1154 would go to transport sector as against Tk 1290 in the revised ADP.
 Tk 1135 crore has been allocated to Jamuna multi-purpose bridge project in the proposed ADP, while Tk 833 crore has been allocated in the revised ADP.
 In the proposed ADP, Tk 892 crore, Tk 841 crore and Tk 691 crore have been allocated to water resources, rural development and agriculture sectors respectively.
 Allocations to these sectors in the revised ADP are Tk 852 crore, Tk 749 crore and Tk 643 crore respectively.
 See Page 8 Col 7

Trade gap narrowed by \$ 31m in '93-94

By Staff Correspondent
 The trade imbalance of Bangladesh in fiscal 1993-94 narrowed, down by 31 million US dollars from that in '92-93, to 1657 million dollars (Tk 6668.4 crore).
 According to the Bangladesh Bank Annual Report 1993-94, released recently, although the import expenditure of the country in the year increased by 120 million dollars (or 2.9 per cent) from the previous year's, the increasing export earning helped reduce the trade gap by a small percentage.
 The export earning in '93-94 increased by 151 million dollars (or 6.3 per cent) from that of the previous year.
 The total export earning in the year stood at 2534 million dollars or Tk 10,097.6 crore while the import expenditure totalled 4071 million dollars or Tk 16766 crore. In '92-93, these figures stood at 2383 million dollars and 4071 million dollars respectively.
 Of the total export earning, 10.09 lakh bales of raw jute fetched Tk 227.2 crore, which was 21.3 per cent less than that of the previous year.
 Export of five lakh tonnes of jute goods fetched Taka 1,130.9 crore which was 0.4 per cent less than that of the previous year.
 The earning from the export of some 27.4 million kg of tea was Tk 152.1 crore — 4.8 per cent less than the previous year's.
 Readymade garments fetched Tk 6199.8 crore — 10.4 per cent higher than the previous year's.
 The main buyers of garments were the USA, Canada and the EC countries.
 Knit wear and hosiery products fetched Tk 1052.6 crore.
 The earning from all types of leather exports rose by 16.6 per cent from the previous year's Tk 574.6 crore to 670.2 crore.
 See Page 12 Col 8

News Analysis Winding up of Rohingya camps now a matter of time

By Farid Hossain
 After many ups and downs the repatriation of a quarter million of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh to Myanmar is now nearing completion.
 Three years after the repatriation began in September, 1992, a great majority of the refugees have travelled back home mainly with the help of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Though the process has once again slowed down, the UNHCR officials in Dhaka hope that those who are still languishing in the camps along Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar-Teknaf region will soon be able to return home.
 Nearly 250,000 Rohingya refugees fled to Bangladesh starting in 1991 to escape what they alleged maltreatment by Myanmar's military. They found refuge in Bangladesh.
 According to latest report available with the UNHCR office in Dhaka, 191,828 refugees have so far returned home. Another 54,299 are still living in the camps in Bangladesh. Thirty-five thousand of them are awaiting clearance from the Yangon government.
 "We hope that the Myanmar government will give clearance to the 35,000 refugees soon to speed up the repatriation," Canh Nguyen-Tang, the UNHCR Representative in Dhaka, said Thursday.
 But according to diplomatic sources, the process of Myanmar's clearance may take some time. They believe that the repatriation process may have stepped into a difficult phase.
 This is reflected in the flow of repatriation in past three months. While 16,129 refugees travelled back home in March, the number came down to 7,349 in April. And until Thursday, a total of 1124 refugees have been sent back home this month.
 The process of repatriation has been painful, often suffering setbacks. The repatriation began first on Sept 22, 1992 under a bilateral accord Bangladesh signed with Myanmar. It had to be postponed four months later in January after the UNHCR and some Western countries accused Bangladesh of pushing the refugees back by force against their will. At that stage the UNHCR was kept outside the repatriation accord. Under international pressure the accord was revised and the government involved the UNHCR in the repatriation process. That was not enough to speed up the flow of repatriation. The
 See Page 8 Col 7

Hazy maze of political funding-II

By Asiuazzaman
 budget however, is always a top secret for every party.
 Bangladesh election rules permit a parliamentary candidate to spend a maximum of Tk 300,000 only and to print a single-colour poster during the election campaign. But according to party insiders, the expenditure is much much higher than that modest official ceiling.
 "In some constituencies it can even cross the Tk 50,00,000 mark for a particular candidate," said one leader, adding that the parties always try to field financially strong candidates in the election battle.
 The investigations also revealed that all the major political parties provide financial support to their candidates, specially during the parliamentary elections.
 Parties like the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), its arch-rival the Awami League and the Jatiya Party never bear the total election expenses of any of their candidates. Instead, they distribute those among the candidates who are financially weaker against their rival candidates.
 "Some of the candidates are wealthy enough to meet their own expenses and also contribute to the party funds," said one veteran political leader, who was elected more than one Parliament said adding "the allocation from the party for a candidate varies from Tk 300,000 to 500,000."
 This variation depends on the prospect of the candidate about his win. A candidate obviously add a considerable amount from his own resources to the fund he gets from the central leadership, the source added.
 "You know these are the investments for the parties and a party would not be a bad investment."
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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia placing a wreath at the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of his assassination yesterday.

Time for voter registration extended

By Staff Correspondent
 The Election Commission (EC) has extended the time limit for voter registration from May 31 to June 7.
 An EC press release yesterday said, the time limit was extended to enable the eligible voters to have their names in the new electoral roll.
 The enumerators, selected by the EC, would now make house-to-house visit till June 7 to collect information about voters.
 The voter registration programme began on May 25.
 The EC requested the voters concerned to get registered within the stipulated time.

ROK to recruit 3500 more Bangladeshi workers

SEOUL, May 30: South Korea will recruit another 3,500 Bangladeshi workers, the Korean Ministry of Trade, Energy and Industry said, reports UNB.
 The official announcement to recruit more Bangladeshis came just two days after the May 25-27 visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to Seoul.
 Recruitment of more Bangladeshi workforce was one of the top item in the agenda during Begum Zia's summit meeting with President Kim Young-Sam.
 A Bangladesh delegation led by the Labour and Manpower
 See Page 12 Col 6

Father, son rescued from kidnappers

By Staff Correspondent
 Detective police late Monday rescued one Abdul Malek Hawlader and his 10-year-old son Sohel who were reportedly kidnapped Sunday morning.
 In a raid at a filling station behind Ramna Bhaban Monday night, they also arrested six persons on charge of kidnapping Malek and his son, police said.
 The arrested were identified as Md. Alauddin, Abul
 See Page 12 Col 8

JS budget session begins June 15

Star Report
 President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called the Jatiya Sangsad into session from June 15. It will be the 20th session of the Fifth Parliament, elected in 1991.
 The national budget for fiscal 1995-96 will be presented in this session by the Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman.
 This summoning of Parliament comes just 48 days after the prorogation of the last one on April 27. That 19th session was the briefest in four years sitting for only four days.
 It will be the fifth budget session of this Parliament which is scheduled to complete its five-year life in March next year.
 The Opposition has been boycotting the Sangsad sessions since March last year. They have been demanding general elections under a caretaker government. On December 28 last, 147 Opposition MPs submitted resignation letters to the Speaker, which were rejected later for technical reasons.
 Yet, the Opposition has remained firm on its stance to continue boycotting the sessions and have even raised a demand for dissolution of the Parliament.
 Since March 1994, seven sessions of the Sangsad were held without participation of the opposition MPs.
 Since March 1, 1994 the Opposition MPs have so far boycotted 89 working days of Parliament. According to parliamentary rules, the MPs can lose their membership, and their seats fall vacant, following the completion of 90 days of continuous absence without leave of the House.

High Court rejects bail prayer of Gen Latif

A High Court division bench yesterday rejected the bail prayer of Major General (rtd) M A Latif, an accused in the General Manzoor murder case, reports UNB.
 The HC bench comprising Justice Mozammel Huq and Justice Nurul Islam, however, directed the jail authorities to allow Latif's lawyers to meet him in the Dhaka Central Jail in accordance with the jail code.
 Earlier, appearing on behalf of the petitioner, Barrister A R Yusuf submitted that Latif was not directly, indirectly or even remotely connected with the murder of General Abul Manzoor, killed inside the Chittagong cantonment on June 2, 1981.
 The bail petition was moved in the court on May 21.
 Attorney General Aminul Huq opposed the bail prayer, saying that the investigations might be hampered if the accused was granted bail at this stage.
 The case is almost ready for filing of chargesheet and the
 See Page 12 Col 8

Zia's death anniversary observed

By Staff Correspondent
 The 14th anniversary of the death of President Ziaur Rahman was observed yesterday.
 On this day in 1981, Zia was killed by a group of army officers at the Chittagong Circuit House.
 People yesterday visited the Mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city and placed wreaths there.
 President Abdur Rahman Biswas first placed wreaths at the mazar and offered foteha in the morning.
 Later, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia along with her cabinet colleagues, MPs and party leaders and workers placed wreaths and offered foteha at the mazar.
 Radio and TV put up special programmes while newspapers brought out special supplements highlighting the contributions of the late president.
 See Page 12 Col 4

9 infiltrators held by BDR in Jessore

From Our Correspondent
 JESSORE, May 30: The BDR arrested nine persons from different border areas of the district when they were trying to infiltrate into Bangladesh from across the border during the past one week.
 The BDR also foiled several attempts by the BSF to forcibly push 12 people into Bangladesh from India.
 The nine persons were held from Benapole under Sharsha and from Borni under Chowgacha thanas.
 The arrested have been handed over to the local thana police.
 When contacted the Commanding Officer (CO) BDR, Jessore Section, Lt Col Nazim-ur-Rahim, told The Daily Star that the arrested people were Bengali-speaking Indian nationals and their only purpose was to infiltrate into the country to get enrolled as voters.
 He, however, said border security has been tightened up.
 See Page 8 Col 7

Hearing of writ against EC resumes tomorrow

A writ petition filed by Advocate Aminul Gani Tito challenging certain provisions of the voters' registration was adjourned yesterday and the matter will come up for hearing tomorrow, June 1 next, reports BSS.
 The hearing of the said writ began yesterday for the second day before a High Court division bench but in the midst of the hearing, the petitioner's counsel, ABM Nurul Islam, prayed for an adjournment to better prepare his case.
 The bench comprising Justice Mohammad Ismail Uddin Sarkar and Justice Abu Sayeed Alummad, granted the prayer.
 See Page 12 Col 1

RAJUK COMMERCIAL PLOT AUCTION NOTICE
 Most ideally located Commercial-Cum-Residential Plot No-10, Gulshan North C/A, two sides road facilities (North Circle, by the side of main road) measuring more or less 597 Sqr. metre (8 katha 14 chattak) will be allotted for 99 years lease, on open auction.
 Applications on prescribed form to be obtained with terms and conditions from Janata Bank, Rajuk Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk 500/- (Five hundred) only in cash (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from the intending bidders up to 2-00 PM on 18-6-95.
 The auction will be held on 19-6-95 in the conference room 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10-00 AM.
 Chairman
Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha
 Dhaka
 DFP-13195/28/5
 G-842

Informal talks on BCS (Admin) Assoc demands

By Staff Correspondent
 Government representatives and leaders of the BCS Administration Association yesterday held several rounds of informal talks at the Secretariat and discussed the six-point demand made by the association, sources concerned said.
 The demands include: immediate withdrawal of the transfer order served on Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and reappointing him to a post equivalent to that of a secretary, cancellation of the appointment of journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury as Economic Minister in the Bangladesh High Commission in London, unconditional apology from the State Minister for Health for his alleged misconduct with the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet and filling up of different vacant posts in the administration.
 See Page 8 Col 7

Hasina criticises 'politicisation' of administration

By Staff Correspondent
 Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has expressed concern over the current "administrative instability" caused by the ruling party's "practice of using the public servants for partisan ends."
 In a press statement issued last night, she said, there is anger and frustration among the officials of different cadre services because the ministers and MPs of the BNP had been appointing officials of their choice to various key positions in the administration.
 Members of different cadre services have been agitating since long to free the administration from politicisation, Hasina said.
 "I strongly protest this government's practice of appointing, transferring, promoting and retiring the civil servants in violation of constitutional provisions," she said.
 See Page 12 Col 6