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# The Daily Star

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**STOCK MARKET**

DSE price index	723.19 (+0.75%)
Market capital Tk	42.87 billion
Transactions in volume	133572
Transactions in value Tk	22.08 million

**Supplement**  
 Today's issue of *The Daily  
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 supplement on World  
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Happiness**  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**ADB experts  
visit Bogra**  
 BOGRA, June 4: A five-  
 member delegation of ADB  
 experts today visited the  
 district. They reviewed  
 current and future  
 developments of the agri-  
 culture, irrigation, indus-  
 try, city and communication  
 sectors during a meeting  
 with the district adminis-  
 tration and public repre-  
 sentatives at the local  
 circuit house. The ADB  
 team included Ms Y Ohara,  
 SABB Thalakkada, Ms Galpar  
 Sizerey, H Carlson and KH  
 Talukder, reports UNB.

**Phensidyl seized**  
 By Staff Correspondent  
 The Department of Nar-  
 cotics recovered 393 bottles  
 of Indian phensidyl from a  
 Dhaka-bound bus near the  
 Dhulibhita bridge on the  
 Dhaka-Aricha highway yester-  
 day.

**23 killed in Indian  
road accident**  
 NEW DELHI, June 4: At  
 least 23 people were killed  
 and 10 injured when a truck  
 overturned and fell into a 200  
 metres deep valley in the  
 western state of Maharashtra,  
 United News of India (UNI)  
 said today.

## Tk 1000 cr will be spent for ID cards, food import

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said that Tk 1000 crore will be spent from next year's budget to meet the expenditure for issuance of voters' ID cards by the Election Commission and meeting food deficit, reports UNB.

He also disclosed that the size of the Annual Development Programme for the coming fiscal is most likely to be over Tk 12,000 crore, the biggest-ever development budget of the country.

Saifur Rahman was exchanging views with a number of ministers at a pre-budget policy discussion in the Secretariat Cabinet Room.

Next financial year's ADP will be announced in Parliament in the budget session beginning June 15.

The Finance Minister said despite ever-declining foreign aid the increase in the size of ADP would be possible for the increased contribution of internal resources.

"We must severely curtail non-priority sectors and unproductive expenditures to continue with the increasing ADP and support poverty alleviation, education and other priority sectors," he told his colleagues.

Saifur said current year's (1994-95) total ADP expenditure is likely to cross the original allocation of Tk 11,000 crore, which is "unprecedented in the history of Bangladesh."

Pointing out the staggering losses incurred by public sector corporations like BCIC, Jute, Textile, Steel Mills Corporation, the Finance Minister said such corporations were gobbling up thousands of crore of money from public exchequer.

"The size of the ADP would have been more than Tk 14 thousand crore had the government not paid the losses and liabilities of the public sector," he said.



Newly appointed Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Armed Forces Division yesterday. — PID photo

## Arms ban on Bosnia 'unfair' Dhaka for 'peacemaking role' of UN forces

Diplomatic Correspondent

Bangladesh has called for 'broadening the mandate' of UN peacekeepers in Bosnia and said the UN Protection Forces should 'now be engaged not only in peacekeeping but also in a peacemaking role.'

It also called for immediate lifting of the arms embargo against the Bosnians, describing the one-sided ban 'as unfair and discriminating.'

A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, briefing newsmen yesterday, said Dhaka demanded that the international community should 'not yield to obvious Serb blackmail and take resolute measures in ending the Bosnian crisis.'

"Bangladesh is extremely concerned at the recent turn of events following Bosnian Serbs taking UN peacekeepers hostage, murder of the Bosnian foreign minister, loot of weapons from the UN arsenal,

refusal of the Serbs to remove heavy weapons from the exclusion zone and the shelling upon Bosnian civilians in Tuzla," the Foreign Ministry said.

"This situation is totally unacceptable and we feel time has now come for action." The spokesman, also said that Dhaka was totally opposed to the withdrawal of the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) as "It would make the Bosnian population vulnerable and undermine the credibility of the United Nations."

There are several options for consideration before the UN Security Council, the spokesman said, adding Dhaka would support the move to further bolster and reinforce the UNPROFOR with better equipment and manpower. Presently, there are about 23,000 UN peacekeeping forces in Bosnia.

## ID cards: EC refutes allegations

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission yesterday refuted allegations by some computer firms that it was killing time and was reluctant to issue identity (ID) cards to the voters.

The government has taken up the ID card project and the EC has taken necessary steps to implement it, a press release of the EC said.

Tender would be floated soon in this regard and measures for appointment of advisers to monitor the project were now at final stage, it said.

The press release said that the EC held a meeting with computer experts after holding a meeting with computer firms. The experts unanimously agreed that it would not be possible to produce ID cards for 60 million voters within six months.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission (EC) asked the

## BUET closed sine die

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) was closed sine die yesterday following the killing of a final year student by gunman Saturday.

Resident students left their halls under orders from the university authorities.

The decision of closing the university was taken at a joint meeting of the provosts of halls, the deans of faculties and the academic council with acting Vice Chancellor Prof Dipak Kanti Das in the chair.

Ahmed Ullah, a final year student of Civil Engineering and General Secretary of the Samajtantik Chhatra Front, BUET Unit, was killed by unidentified assailants on the campus.

The killing led to violent protests by students of the university.

## Country fully safe under BNP rule: Khaleda

BAROBARIHAT, Lalmonirhat, June 4: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said the sheaf of paddy symbolises peace, progress and development and urged the people to choose again her party's election symbol, reports UNB.

"Country's independence, sovereignty and democracy are fully safe and secure under the custody of the BNP, and only the BNP can ensure economic emancipation and protection of independence and sovereignty" she told a mammoth public meeting at Barobarihat Shaheed Abul Kashem College in the afternoon.

The Prime Minister said her government had implemented massive development programmes and continued the development drive for the welfare of the countrymen.

If she said, the people continue their support to her party, the BNP will take up more people-oriented programmes for changing the lot of commonman and overall advancement of the nation.

"There is not alternative to the BNP in the country in ensuring development of Bangladesh. If the present tempo of development goes uninterrupted, the country will be self-sufficient within next five years," she observed.

The Prime Minister deplored that the opposition parties resorted to hartal, strike, blockade, and arson on public and private property when the country is making strides forward.

"This country is of all of us. Let's come close and worked unitedly for building the nation for a bright future of our new generation," she said and called upon the opponents to shun the path of destruction and join the politics of development and production.

Presided over by district BNP president Principal Asadul Habib Dulu, the meeting was also addressed by Housing and Public Works Minister

## New navy, air force chiefs take over

Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam and Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed yesterday took over as the new Chiefs of Staff of the Bangladesh Navy and the Bangladesh Air Force respectively, reports BSS.

After taking over, the new chiefs visited the Shukha Anuban — the eternal flame — at the Dhaka Cantonment. They placed wreaths at the memorial and paid tributes to the members of the Armed Forces who had laid down their lives in the War of Liberation in 1971.

Senior officers including the Principal Staff Officers and other BN and BAF personnel were present.



BUET students brought out a procession in the city yesterday to mourn the death of Ahmed Ullah, a BUET student, who was shot dead on the campus Saturday. — Star photo

## \$60m IDA credit for nutrition project

By Staff Correspondent

The World Bank has approved a 59.8 million US dollar credit for a six-year national nutrition project designed to improve the nutritional status of the population, particularly women and children.

The loan from the International Development Association (IDA), the soft-term lending arm of the Bank, was approved in Washington recently. The estimated cost of the nutrition project is 67.3 million dollars, with the government providing the remainder of the funds. The IDA credit has been made on standard terms with 40 years maturity.

The project has three intermediate objectives: to build a national level capacity to design and implement an effective nutrition programme, community empowerment for actions against malnutrition and to achieve a measurable nutritional impact.

According to available statistics, Bangladesh has one of the severest levels of malnutrition in the world with 68 per cent of the children under five being moderately or severely underweight, 64 per cent of them severely or moderately stunted and 17 per cent suffering from 'wasting'. About 70 per cent of the women and children also suffer from nutritional anaemia.

The national nutrition project has three components including national level nutrition

## Hasina's press confce today

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will speak on the country's overall situation at a press conference to be held at the party's Dhanmondi office in the city at 11 this morning, it was officially announced yesterday.

At the news conference, Hasina is expected to make some 'important observations' on the contemporary socio-economic and political situation but the main thrust of her statement would be regarding the on-going voters' registration and alleged anomalies and flaws in it, sources close to her said.

## State counsel for Babu: HC issues rule on govt

A division bench of the High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to show cause as to why the order passed by Additional Sessions Judge, Second Court, Dhaka appointing Asaduzzaman, Assistant Public Prosecutor as state defence of accused Akhtaruzzaman Babu by recalling the earlier appointment of Sirajul Huq, senior advocate, as state defence should not be set aside, reports BSS.

The bench comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Huq and Justice Mohamad Nurul Islam also directed the Attorney General of Bangladesh or his representative to appear in person before the court at the time of hearing of the matter on June 13.

Mrs Nurun Nahar, wife of Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, filed an application to this effect against the order dated April 5, 1995 passed by Md Akhlaque Rahman Chowdhury.

## Watches, clocks worth Tk 1 cr seized at Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 4: Chittagong Customs seized illegally imported electronic wrist watches and wall-clocks worth about Taka one crore from MPB shed of the Chittagong Port last night, official sources said.

The watches were imported reportedly under false declaration from Hong Kong.

Earlier on May 30, Customs in a similar raid had seized colour TVs and airconditioners worth Taka 1.75 crore from the same MPB shed imported from Singapore under false declaration.

The principal appraiser Md Mohiuddin and appraiser An-

## Import orders placed for 13.49 lakh tonnes of rice

By Staff Correspondent

Import orders for 13.49 lakh tonnes of rice were placed during the first eleven months of the current fiscal, according to Food Ministry figures.

The private sector opened letters of credit (LCs) for import of 8.49 lakh tonnes of rice while the government opened LCs for five lakh tonnes till May 30.

According to an estimate by Bangladesh Bank, till April 27 last, the private sector and the government opened LCs for importing 12.93 lakh tonnes of rice and 5.96 lakh tonnes of wheat.

The import value of the rice was 330.41 million US dollars and that of wheat 108.17 million dollars.

LCs for around 3 lakh

## Only 19 pc agri loans recovered in 1993-94

By Staff Correspondent

A huge amount of outstanding agriculture loans remained unrecovered till June 1994 as the authorities realised only 19 per cent or Tk 979.12 crore of the total agriculture bank loans of Tk 5141.81 crore.

Of this amount, Tk 4203.72 crores remained as overdue loans, which is 9.1 per cent or 349.36 crore higher than that of the previous year, according to the Bangladesh Bank Annual Report 1993-94.

The outstanding loans till June 1993 were Tk 4719.13 crore while some 869.23 crore was realised with a recovery rate of 18.4 per cent.

During fiscal 1993-94, different banks disbursed agriculture loans of Tk 1100.79 crores, of which the Bangla-

## Degree results announced

The results of degree pass and subsidiary examinations of 1993 held last October under the Dhaka University were announced yesterday, reports UNB.

A total of 4894 candidates out of 9327 came out successful in the BA examinations. Two students of Begum Badrunnesa College and Jagannath University College secured first class. Of the examinees 1540 got second class and 3352 third class. The pass percentage is 52.47.

A total of 1038 candidates, out of 1539, in the B Sc examination came out successful. Of them nine got first class, 635 second class and 394 third class. The percentage of pass is 67.45.

A total of 2372 students appeared in the B Com examinations of which 1330 passed

## Global jute production up but prices down

Global jute production in the current year (1994-95) showed signs of recovery after years of decline in output, but the price of the fibre recorded downturn, reports UNB.

As the production shot up by nearly 14 per cent, prices nosedived, according to the latest review of the International Jute Organisation (IJO), released here yesterday.

The IJO review on "World Jute Situation and Outlook" estimates that world production of raw jute in 1994-95 would increase to 3.451 million tons, 13.8 per cent higher than the 1993-94 production level of 3.033 million tons.

Also, overall acreage under jute cultivation in five major jute-producing countries — Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal and Thailand — is estimated to have expanded by 5.9 per cent to 4,825,200 acres in 1994-95 from 4,556,200 acres in 1993-94.

But, the review estimates, per ton of raw jute lost about 75 dollars due to increased supply.

Bangladeshi raw jute got prices between 226 and 250 dollars per ton in the international market during the first seven months (July-Jan) of 1994-95 against last year's price range between 290 and 350 dollars.

The current year's price level was far below the indicative price range of 370-430 dollars set by the FAO Inter-Governmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres.

Production in Bangladesh is estimated to have increased

## UNDP for urgent action to protect Bangladesh's environment

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has asked for urgent action to reverse the alarming trend of environmental degradation in Bangladesh which threatens to further impoverish millions of people, reports UNB.

"Bangladesh's major resource is its people. Rather than making these people part of the problem, it is time to see them as part of the solution," the UNDP said in its annual report presented at a round-table in Dhaka yesterday, ahead of the world Environment Day today.

The UN agency report "signals the need for a concise effort in environmental diplomacy on the water-sharing issue" at regional level.

It further proposed that the government might review the possibility of taking the lead in establishing a regional initiative to interrelate the phenomena of bio-diversity reduction and desertification to the water-sharing issue.

A similar initiative could perhaps be started to safeguard the environmental heritage of the Sundarbans, said the report.

Serious water crisis in the dry season due to unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges waters at the Farakka barrage by India has posed serious environmental hazards for Bangladesh, threatening the flora and fauna of the world's largest mangrove forest and causing desertification process in the country's northwestern part.

The UNDP's Dhaka mission held the round-table discussion on the report titled 'Human Development in Bangladesh Environment'. Environment experts, journalists, NGO workers and government officials took part in it.

UNDP Resident Representative Eimi Watanabe chaired the meeting, addressed by Ziaul Ahmed Chowdhury of BSS, Dr Mahfuzul Huque of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Dr Kazi Farook Ahmed, Chinmoy Mottuiddi, Khushi Kabir, Azizul Huq Siddique, Reazuddin Ahmed, Anwar Islam, Sabir Mustafa and Subinoy Nandi.

The report said, involving people, and empowering them to assume an active role in management in partnership with the government and other development actors is a critical first step towards a more sustainable and human development path.

Women of the country and its rural population have a long and rich history as environmental managers. Time has come to tap their potential for positive environmental changes, it observed.

A sustainable environmental management strategy calls for recognition of the role of women and demands their integration into the process, it felt.

Turning to the burgeoning population of the country, the UNDP reports said growing population demands, along with the related demands of agriculture, and industry are seemingly devouring natural resources at an alarming rate without replenishment.