

Water gushing out from a public hydrant in Tanti Bazar. Nearly 100 hydrants located in this part of old Dhaka do not have any control caps to stop wastage.

Star photo by Amran Hossain

## 6 pc GDP growth likely

growth during the outgoing fiscal (1994-95).

Of the Tk 12,100 crore ADP Tk 4554 crore or 38 per cent will be met from government's own resources. Project aid component is estimated at Tk 5030 crore or 42 per cent.

The forthcoming ADP is bigger by Tk 950 crore or 9 per cent than the revised current ADP.

Size of the outgoing 1994-95 ADP stands at Tk 11,150 crore where government's contribution is 36 per cent. Some 200 new projects

have been incorporated in the proposed ADP for 1995-96. Of these, 18 are technical assistance related, and 11 to be financed from own resources of the organisations.

As many as 322 projects

have been proposed for the next ADP.

Education sector has been proposed to be given the highest allocation with Tk 1605 crore or 14 per cent of the total resource, in the 1995-96 ADP. The sector received Tk 1553 crore in the current programme.

Tk 1135 crore, including project aid component of Tk 845 crore, has been earmarked for the Jamuna Bridge project.

Tk 220 crore has been earmarked for the project on voter registration and issuing voter identity cards.

The agriculture, rural development and water resources sectors together have received allocation of Tk 2424 crare or 22 per cent of the to-

## Lists of absenting MPs

From Page 1

The 147 opposition MPs who resigned en masse last December 28 have so far boycotted all 88 days of seven consecutive sessions of the Fifth Parltament

The coming session will be the 20th of the House, elected in February, 1991. It will also this Sangsad.

Article 67 (1) (b) of the Constitution says: "A member of Parliament shall vacate his seat — if he is absent from Parliament, without the leave of Parliament, for ninety consecutive sitting days."

Parliamentary sources said that the JS officials have categorised the MPs who signed the attendance register kept in the lobby despite the boy-

#### Shamsul denies negotiations with Ershad

Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam ves terday dismissed speculations that the government was negotiating with ousted president Ershad to send him abroad if he gave up political ambition, reports UNB.

"He is not a political prisoner, he is a convict and under the jurisdiction of court", the minister told a questioner at a meeting with the overseas correspondents at the National Press Club.

Islam also refuted press reports that Zeenat Mosharraff. said to be a fiance of Ershad. had recently met the former president secretly in jail to convey the government's offer.

#### Fahd, Saleh hold talks to repair damaged ties

JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA. June 6: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh have met here for their first talks since ties soured almost five years ago over the Gulf crisis, reports AFP.

The two leaders held private talks late Monday in the Red Sea city of Jeddah before their delegations joined them after midnight, the Saudi press agency said.

cott and also those who joined parliamentary standing com-

mittee meetings since March

1, 1994. These lists of MPs mostly belonging to the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and

the Jamaat, were not available until yesterday. One source, a high official of

be the lifth budget session of the Parliament secretariat said that Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali might discuss the matter on his return from Khulna next

The Parliament officials, however, failed to offer any cluces to what kind of decision may be taken regarding the MPs once the 90-day limit on abstention is completed.

A mid-ranking officials, who has witnessed the proceedings of at least three earlier Sangsads said that the Speaker is unlikely to take any decision unless somebody draws the Speaker's attention by pointing out the matter on the floor or informs the Chair in writing.

Speaker Razzak Ali, however, had earlier told reporters: "There is no ambiguity about the fact that after 90 days of continuous absence from the House, their seats would fall vacant."

Ruling party Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar told The Daily Star that if the Opposition seats fall vacant, there would be no other option but to announce dates for by-elections in accordance with the constitutional provisions.

He said that now there is no sign of any hope that the Opposition member would join the next sessions to avert the 90-day clause despite the fact that the Speaker last February rejected all the 147 letters of resignation submitted by the

"We offered them a dialogue to resolve the matter before the budget session, but they did not respond to our offer,' Talukdar said.

Another BNP source said that a ruling party MP might draw Speaker's attention following the passage of the national budget, expected towards the end of this month.

A number of Opposition MPs, however, said that they . are least concerned about the 90-day issue since they have resigned from the Parliament, irrespective of the Speaker's

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#### SES takes action against 774 vehicles in city

By Staff Correspondent

The Speed Enforcement Squad (SES) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has taken legal action against 774 vehicles during the past five

The DMP introduced the SES to check muggings and other crimes on the city roads. The vellow jacket worn policemen of the squad equipped with modern communications equipment, arms and motor bikes are on patrol in the city roads since June 1.

During this period, the SES police seized 53 vehicles including 30 motor bikes, nine auto rickshaws, six cars, four buses and two trucks for not having necessary documents and on charge of theft.

They also arrested 57 people on various charges including driving without license and mugging.

#### Diarrhoea claims 52 in Ctg so far

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG. June 6: Di-

arrhoea claimed the lives of 52 people in the port city and adjoining areas during the last five months. Nearly 15680 persons were

attacked with the disease during the period, official sources

Medical teams have been deployed in the affected areas and the civil surgeon's office here has opened a control room to monitor the situation. The worst affected areas are

Patiya, Lohagara, Boalkhali, Anwara and Sandwip. In the city's Saraipara Agrabad, South Patenga and Bakalia, diarrhoea has broken out in an epidemic form, the

#### 3 Indian reciters hurt in city road accident

source added.

Three visiting Indian reciters were injured in a road accident near the Matsya Bhaban in the city early yesterday, reports UNB. Partha Ghose, Gouri Ghose

and Parichoy Basu met with the accident at 1 am when the private car carrying them was hit by a truck coming from opposite direction. They were returning to

their place of residence at Elephant road after attending a dinner party at the house of Nasiruddin Yusuf, founder of the Dhaka Theatre. The driver of the car also

received minor injuries.

They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and released yesterday evening. The three are now out of danger, hospital sources

The famous Indian reciters Partha, Churi and Parichoy are visiting Bangladesh at the invitation of "Swanon", a cultural organisation which has been celebrating its 10th founding anniversary.

#### WB-aided nutrition project to be launched soon

A World Bank-assisted nu trition project will be launched shortly with the aim to develop a national nutrition programme in Bangladesh having severe malnutrition problem, reports UNB.

The International Development Association (IDA), the soft-loan affiliate of the multilateral donor agency, has already approved 59.8 million US dollar credit for the Bangladesh Integrated Nutri tion Project (BINP).

World Bank officials, in a briefing in Dhaka vesterday. hoped that the project would improve the nutritional status of the population, particularly women and children, and malnutrition would cease to be a public health problem.

The six-year project, expected to be launched in next August, will initially be introduced in six thanas and spread in another 17 thanas in the third year and another 17 in the fourth year.

Banaripara of Barisal district, Gabtali of Bogra, Sharasti of Chandpur, Rajnagar of Moulvibazar. Mohammadpur of Magura and Faridpur Sadar are the thanas where the BINP will be introduced in the first phase.

Some 93 per cent underfive children suffer from various degrees of protein energy malnutrition (PEM) while malnutrition is the underlying cause of two out of three under-five deaths, accounting for almost half a million child deaths annually.

"This is a national tragedy," Pierre Landell-Mills, chief of World Bank Resident Mission in Dhaka, said pointing out that 63 per cent of total children are suffering from severe mainutrition in Bangladesh.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressed a huge public meeting at Gobindaganj in Gaibandha district yesterday. - PID photo

## PM: Interest on loans

From Page 1 the soil and people of the country and it believes in development based on village. she said. This is why the goverument has attached top at tention to charge the lot of ru-

ral people. Referring to the imprison ment of the deposed President, the Prime Minister said Ershad was now in jail for his misdeeds. "He is not a political prisoner. He has been jailed for his criminal activities and must suffer the imprisonment," she said.

She asked the people of Gaibandha to take decision in light of the reality and advised them not to make mistake in future as they did in the last

"If anyone thinks that Ershad can be released through conspiracy or extending support to any quarters, he is in the wrong. There is no scope of freeing Ershad as there are laws and lawcourts in the country." Begum Zia said.

Without naming the Awami League, she said the party had forgotten about the people while in power and entered into the 25-year treaty of submission without the consent of the people of Bangladesh. "Those who can sell out the

sovereignty and foreign policy of the country cannot run the country," she observed. "How those who had failed to take the responsibility of 7.5 crore people could now take the charge of 12 crore people?"

The BNP Chairperson said

the party (AL) had been in the street with processions and demonstrations for the past 17 years and was now trying to go power with the help of their 'masters' as they have no confidence in the people.

The Prime Minister said the people of the country do not want further famine and death from starvation. They now want to carry forward the present trend of development and production.

Begum Zia said the BNP had been meeting the five basic needs of the people and would continue its efforts for making the country self-reliant and self-dependent through changing the lot of common-"Illiteracy is the root cause

of Bangladesh's lagging behind others," she said and added that her government is committed to educating every citizen. She listed government's various education programmes.

The Prime Minister said the entire Lalmonirhat district would be free from the curse of illiteracy in August this year due to mass education programme initiated by the BNP government.

Presided over by thana BNP convenor Abdul Mannan Man dal, the meeting was also addressed by Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali. State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman, Dr RA Gani, Matiur Rahman, Prof Abdul Hafiz, MP, and Rebeka Mahmud, MP.



Craftsmen readying a tazia inside the Hussaini Dalan in the city yesterday ahead of Ashura, which will be observed on June 10. - Star photo

# 7th June today

Ayub Khan and the agitation for the realisation of the Six-Point demand under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman culminated in a mass upsurge in 1969 and, consecuently, the struggle for independence of the country in 1971.

To mark the day, the Awami League has planned elaborate programmes, including a public rally in the capital. Other programmes of the day include hoisting of the national and party flags atop the Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi, the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue and all branch offices throughout the country at 5:30 am, assembling of AL leaders and workers at the Bangabandhu Bhaban and garlanding the portrait of

Sheikh Mujib there at 7:30 am. AL chief Sheikh Hasina will preside over the public rally.

to be held at the Bangabandhu Avenue at 3 in the afternoon.

On this occasion, Sheikh Hasina has also issued a message highlighting the significance of the day. In her message, she termed the 7th of June a milestone in the nation's struggle for liberation and called upon the pro-Liberation forces to reunite against the conspiracy to distort the national history.

"The father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would be remembered forever for his contributions in liberating the country and none would be able to remove the glorious history although the present government was ignoring the historic occasion.

The day would inspire the generations to come and help them carry out their national responsibilities," she hoped.

#### Hartal observed in Sunamganj From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 6: An eight frour hartal was observed in the district headquarters of Sunamganj today demanding immediate transfer of the deputy commissioner and five other district officials.

The corruption resistance committee' headed by the chairman Sunamgani pourashava, Mominul Moujdin which called the hartal accusing the officials of widespread corruption. All commercial establishments and educational institutions were closed during the hartal. The lawyers joined the court after 2 pm. A procession was brought out in the

#### Young boy shot dead in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, June 6: A young

boy. Selim Shaikh, 17, was shot dead at abut 1:30 am Tuesday at Amirpur village under Batiaghata PS of the district. Police, quoting Ansar

Shaikh, father of the deceased said three armed miscreants fired shots at his head through the window of his house. A case has been recorded in this connection.

#### Haryana to give Delhi water

NEW DELHI, June 6: Haryana today agreed to give Delhi additional 100 cusecs of water till June 30, state Chief Minister Bhajan Lal said here oday, reports PTL

If there are no rains by then, this facility will be extended till July 7. Bhajan Lal sold reporters immediately lifter a meeting of Chief Ministers of Delhi. Haryana. Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, convened to the Home Minister S B Chavan, on the water crisis in Delhi.

Bhajan Lal said the addi tional water was being released on humanitarian grounds.

#### US, DPRK resume talks today

KUALA LUMPUR, June 6: North Korea said today it would hold further talks with the Untied States on Wednesday on the North's nuclear programme despite the departure of two of its delegates because of lack of progress, reports Reuter. "Both sides had a three-

hour long in-depth discussion today. We agreed to have a meeting at 10 am tomorrow at the US embassy," a North Korean delegate told reporters.

The two sides have met almost every day since May 20 in the Malaysian capital without making much headway on how to implement last October's landmark nuclear accord

The protracted negotiations have stalled over the North's refusal to accept light-water reactors made by arch foe South Korea. The North Korean delegate

gave no details of today's talks between vice foreign minister Kim Kye-Gwan and his US counterpart, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Thomas Hubbard.

He said two of his colleagues had returned home today this morning because the meetings were not going well.

#### 27 drums of palm oil recovered

CHITTAGONG, June 6: Port

police recovered 27 drums of

palm oil worth about Taka two lakh from a house at Senbagh under Noakhali district yes terday. According to a police press release today, 30 drums of palm oil were earlier taken away by one Sayeed from the Karnaphuli Oil Mill Limited at south Patenga by making false delivery order. Police raided the house of Sayeed and recovered 27 drums of pump oil. reports BSS.

## The Midnight Eile

#### **Explosion in Srinagar** military area

NEW DELHI. June 6: A powerful explosion on Tuesday shook high-security military area in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state, killing one Muslim rebel, a news report said. The explosive went off in the hands of the guerilla. United News of India news agency quoted police as saving. Three passersby were injured, reports AP.

#### Heavy fighting in Philippine island

ZAMBOANGA. Philippine, June 6: Heavy fighting erupted on the southern Philippine island of Basilan today between government forces and the Muslim rebel group Abu Sayyaf. officials said, and radio reports there said at least seven soldiers were killed, reports AFP.

### US positioning troops in Italy for Bosnia mission

WASHINGTON. June 6: About 3,500 US Army troops and just over 100 helicopters will be heading from Germany into Italy in preparation for potential rescue missions in Bosma. Pentagon officials said Monday, reports AP,

The force will include Apache attack and Black hawk air assault choppers as well as medium-lift transport helicopters, officials said.

As early as Tuesday, elements of the force could begin preparations for moving into several bases in Italy, said several Pentagon officials, all of whom spoke on condition of anonymity. "This is not an exercise:

UN peacekeepers in the former Yugoslavia need to be withdrawan. The reinforced aviation brigade was expected to be drawn from the 11th Aviation Regi-

this is positioning" in case the

The units will move southward by air, rail and bus, offihals said.

ment currently training in

#### Japan's coalition agrees to apologise for war atrocities

TOKYO, June 6: Japan's ruling coalition agreed today on the wording of a parliamentary resolution to apologise for the country's role in world war two. officials said, reports Reuter The agreement was reached

after hours of last-ditch talks

between the secretaries-gen-

eral of the three parties in the coalition, the officials said, The officials said the coalition parties agreed to express remorse for Japan's "acts of aggression" against Asian

neighbours and its "colonial

rule" over some of them. Hawks in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had adamantly opposed a unilateral war apology by Japan. They have said such a move would dishonour Japan's war dead. insisting Japan fought the war to help Asians free themselves

from western colonialism. Socialist officials, saying Japan must apologise for Japan's actions, had threatened to break up the coalition if the LDP did not give in.

Failure to compromise could have forced Murayama to call snap general elections or leave the LDP at the head of a minority government. The socialist-sponsored

resolution aimed to apologise for Japanese aggression as part of Murayama's plans to mark this year's 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

### 300 shops gutted in Delhi

NEW DELHI, June 6: Nearly 300 shops selling plastic and rubber products were razed to ground by a devastating fire in a western locality of New Delhi on Tuesday, reports AP.

No human casualty was reported but some animals perished in the fire in Paschim Vihar area, Press Trust of India news agency said.

#### AL calls hartal From Page 1

and the Jubo League were also injured when police resorted to baton charge and firing of rubber bullets to disperse the mob near the District Judge's

Yesterday, both the Awami League and the BNP claimed that Murad belonged to their organisations. Today, the Awami League

and its front organisations brought out procession in the town to protest the killings and held a rally in front of the local party office. Presided over by Aftabuddin

Ahmed, the rally was addressed among others by Shamim Osman, Advocate Anisur Rahman, Advocate Khokan Saha and Abu Hasnat Badal. They demanded action

against those responsible for the killings. Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina vesterday, in a statement condoled the death of

the government for the inci-

dent.

They said the deployment amounted to only part of a potential US slice of a NATO force designed to help UN peacekeepers depart the former Yugoslavia.

Up to 25,000 US troops could be involved in such an

However, the aviation brigade needs to be in place early in the event pockets of peacekeepers need to be evacuated quickly by air at the start of a full-scale overland evacuation.

We will begin soon, possibly this week, to move people and equipment," a senior official said. Units from the 11th Aviation Regiment have been in-

volved in live-fire exercises in

Germany in preparation for

such a deployment. The officials refused to say exactly where the US forces would be based, but one official said their headquarters would be situated in Vincenza, Italy. where paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division are located.

Also accompanying the units will be hundreds of trucks trailers, fuel transports and other vehicles to help support the thousands of troops, the officials said.

However, no armored vehicles will be included in this deployment, they said.

Reuter adds: Around 400 Muslims have been expelled from their homes in a Serbheld town in northern Bosnia. the International Committee of the Red Cross said today.

Nina Winquist, a spokeswoman for the ICRC, said the Muslims had been expelled from their apartments in Prnjavor and were now living outside their homes but within the municipality".

"The only remaining mosque has been blown up with only the minaret left standing,"

Prnjavor is about 40 km (25 miles) east of Banja Luka, a stronghold for Serb ultra-na-

#### Talks on MOU From Page 1

tionalists in Bosnia.

with the ban on the use of child labour in the garment sector.

Two rounds of meetings have been held so far. At the first meeting last week, the BGMEA proposed involving the ILO to independently monitor compliance with any MOU stipulations.

#### Lightning

From Page 1 killed at the time

Ibrahim, 29, and Harun, 22, were killed by lightning around noon when they were grazing their cattle at Aslampur village under Charfasion thana of Bhola district. Two others were also injured dur-

ing the accident. Harun-Ar-Rashid, 12, a student of class VI, Farhad Alam, 32. a teacher and Firoza Begum. 27, a peon of Mankaran High school of Dunki thana of Patuakhali district were injured by lightning. They were

## 21 villages

admitted to the hospital.

From Page 1

The villages include Nazirganj, Vijoygani, Natalia. Puranbharenga. Gonopotodia. Modhupur

The villages which were flooded in Shujanagar thana are Raninagar, Char Raninagar, Shakhagani, Hatkhali, Tatibondh, Ahmedpur, Nishchintapur and Bonkola.

Meanwhile, ferry services at Nagarbari ghat are being disrupted as the river Jamuna continued to rise.

#### Voter registration From Page 1

the voter list as per rules.

slum dwellers and floating people would be enrolled in

He sought cooperation of the federation in this regard. The CEC said this when a delegation of the Federation

called on him at his office They submitted a memorandum which included the demand for enrollment of all Afzal and Murad and blamed slum dwellers and floating people of the country as voters.