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# The Daily Star

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## BUDGET '95-96

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### STOCK MARKET

DSE price index 725.97 (+0.38%)  
Market capital Tk 43.03 billion  
Transactions in volume 99192  
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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Appointment

The President has appointed Uddin Sarkar as judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. Sarkar was a judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, said an official handout yesterday, reports UNB.

#### AL activist held in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, June 7: An Awami League activist was arrested from his residence today for his alleged involvement in Thursday's attack and arson in the town. Police said Anisur Rahman was arrested in the morning and sent to jail after the court rejected his bail petition today, reports UNB.

## Direct foreign investment preferred

### Saifur against withdrawal of lock-in period

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday spoke against withdrawing the one-year lock-in period for foreign portfolio investors but offered to provide other fiscal incentives to help the growth of the country's capital market.

"I don't find any convincing rationality in the argument" to withdraw the lock-in period, he flatly said while speaking at a seminar. "But we are ready to consider every possibility of providing other fiscal incentives to help the growth of the capital market."

However, one of his colleagues who enjoys ministerial rank, slightly differed with the Finance Minister on the lock-in issue while the representa-

tive of a Hong Kong-based portfolio fund manager, with stakes in the Bangladesh capital market, termed it only a minor 'distraction' for the foreign investors.

They were speaking at the 'National conference on capital market development and privatisation' organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) at a local hotel.

M Morshed Khan, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, was the special guest at the inaugural session. Sultanuzzaman Khan, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and DCCI President R Maksud Khan also spoke on the occasion.

In his inaugural speech, the Finance Minister pointed out that steps are gradually being initiated to strengthen the institutional framework of the capital market and to protect the interest of the investors.

He disagreed with the contention that the lock-in period on foreign investments had a dampening effect on the local stock market. "It's not the lock-in situation which has had a dampening effect on the local market, but the repercussions of the Mexico crisis and the rising interest rate in Europe and the United States."

Saifur Rahman said the country needs foreign direct investments more than portfolio investments.

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## AL submits memo to CEC

A delegation of the Awami League yesterday met the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and submitted a proposal suggesting preparation for fresh voter list by simplifying the voter registration form, reports UNB.

Members of the delegation were: Md Qamruzzaman, Rahmat Ali, Begum Matia Chowdhury, Barrister K S Nabi and A F H K Sadeq.

During the meeting, the AL leaders discussed with the CEC various aspects of the voter registration process. They suggested enlistment of inmates in jails, slum-dwellers and expatriate Bangladeshis as voters.

They also favoured a joint meeting between the Election Commission and political parties to make future elections free and fair.

Justice A K M Sadeque received the proposal and assured that he would consider it.

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## Best nat'l teachers honoured

### 92pc children enrolled in schools, says PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government measures have created unprecedented levels of consciousness about primary education, reports UNB.

"Now 92 per cent of children are being enrolled in schools and the rate of dropout has reduced to 20 per cent. Attendance and admission of girls have increased. Literacy rate also increased by 10 per cent in last four years", she said.

Begum Zia was addressing a prize distribution ceremony on the occasion of the National Primary Education Week-1995 at the Osmany Memorial Hall in the city in the morning. The function was telecast live and broadcast over radio.

The Prime Minister sought cooperation from the people irrespective of their party affiliation to make the primary and mass education programmes a success and free the nation from the curse of illiteracy.

Begum Zia said the history of our primary education is of 100 years, but none except Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman took any comprehensive programmes.

President Zia had first taken steps to literate all the people of the country, but his programmes were closed during the autocratic regime, she said.

The Prime Minister said her government again took up massive programmes for ensuring education for all immediately after its assumption of office and strengthened primary and mass education activities through highest budgetary allocation.

See Page 12 Col 5

## Cellular phone monopoly

### SC dismisses Hutchison's writ

The Supreme Court has dismissed a writ filed by a company seeking leave to appeal against a High Court judgement on monopoly in the cellular telephone business, reports UNB.

Hutchison Bangladesh Telecom Limited, which is the sole operator of the cellular phone system in the country, had filed the writ on May 9 against the judgement of the High Court.

A division bench of the High Court on May 8 rejected a writ filed by the company against an international tender notice of the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board inviting entrepreneurs to operate cellular radio telephone systems in the country.

The tender notice was published on July 27 last year in a newspaper.

See Page 12 Col 7

## Russian engr of Ghorasal power plant found dead

By DMCH Correspondent

A Russian engineer was found dead at his flat in the Ghorasal Power Plant premises at Palash, Narsingdi on Tuesday.

Police recovered the body of Kounetsov Alexandre, 33, from the Russian Experts Residential quarters and sent it to BIRDEM in Dhaka.

The body was later brought to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Sources say, the leader of the experts team at the plant, Victor E Goroduraski, asked for Kounetsov who did not report to office Tuesday morning.

When the plant officials went to Kounetsov's flat they found it locked from inside.

They broke open the door as there was no response and found Kounetsov's body on his bed.

## Ideologically JP, BNP are akin, says Manju

Jatiya Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju yesterday said categorically there would be no national election in future with any political party in power, reports UNB.

"There will be no credible election without the main opposition parties — the Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat — in Parliament... And I believe nobody likes to participate in any election under a party government," he said while talking to a group of reporters in his office in the city.

Manju said his party would welcome any government offer for a dialogue to discuss the modalities for handing over of powers to a neutral, caretaker government ahead of the next election.

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Awami League president Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting in the city's Gulistan area yesterday to mark the historic 7th June. — Star photo

## AL's demonstration day on June 15

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced a demonstration day on June 15, the day the Jatiya Sangsad goes into budget session, to press home the demands for dissolution of Parliament right now, handover of power to a non-party administration for conducting elections and enlisting all eligible voters before the next polls.

She, however, did not elaborate on the demonstration day which, party sources said, would be observed across the country.

"Each and every worthy voter must be enlisted through simplified form as we have suggested and nothing should be done to deprive the people of their constitutional right to vote," she told a big public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city, organised as part of the party's 7th June programme.

The AL chief said that a proforma of the AL-proposed voter registration form she had produced at a press

conference on Monday, was submitted to the Election Commission Secretariat yesterday.

Hasina asked the Speaker to accept the resignation letters of 147 opposition MPs, submitted in December last. Those were rejected unconstitutionally following the Prime Minister's directive just to let the BNP cling to power, she added.

"This corrupt, inefficient, and vote-dacoit BNP government is now looking for ways to rig the next elections. Accordingly it is politicising the EC and the administration and robbing people's franchise through an unrealistic and complicated voters' registration method," Hasina alleged.

She reiterated her allegation that the BNP was striving to stay in power at all costs so that its leaders could continue making money through corrupt practices. The ruling party was now collaborating with deposed president Er-

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## 7th June observed

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League and its front organisations observed the historic 7th June yesterday with a renewed pledge to implement the spirit of the day.

On this day in 1966, some political activists, including Manu Mia, were killed in police firing in Dhaka city during a hartal protesting the arrests of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other AL leaders.

In observance of the day, the AL drew up various programmes, including rallies, in the capital and in other parts of the country.

The day's programme began with the hoisting of the national and the party flags atop the party offices throughout the country.

In the capital, AL chief Sheikh Hasina, along with the central leaders, garlanded the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and observed a minute's silence at the Bangabandhu Bhaban at 7.30am.

In the afternoon, Hasina addressed a big public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue.

## Back from the dead, and free at long last!

JAMALPUR, June 7: A young woman, who was earlier said to have been killed and whose body was even 'identified' by her mother, was at last released on bail from the jail on Monday, court and official sources here said, reports UNB.

The girl, identified as Phool Banu, 20, daughter of late Taslimuddin, had been missing since the ninth of Ramadan last (February last). She hailed from Korol-ata village in Gopalpur thana of Tangail district.

Meantime, the police recovered a dead body of a young girl from Charpara Beel in Sarishabari thana of Jamalpur, three days before the Eid-ul-Fitr.

Phool Banu's mother, Rahima Bawa, identified the body as that of her daughter. She buried the body after necessary autopsy and a murder case was also filed with the police.

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## 9 killed in Chittagong road accident

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 7: At least nine people were killed and eight injured in a road accident at Fakirhat under Sitakunda thana, on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway early this morning.

The dead could not be identified immediately, police said. Seriously injured Mohammad Sobuj, 35, Abdul Mannan, 40, Serajul Islam, 40, Akhteruzzaman, 45, Jamaluddin, 35, Alauddin, 18, Sultan Ahmed, 40, and Abdul Kasem, 40, of Lakshmipur district were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The accident occurred at 4.45 am when a rice-loaded truck bound for Dhaka skidded off the road.

Nine out of 25 passengers trapped under the vehicle died on the spot.

Police and Fire Brigade personnel later recovered the bodies.

The driver fled the scene. A case was filed with Sitakunda thana.

UNB adds: Three people were killed and 40 others injured in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar thana today.

Police said two unidentified young men were killed and 40 people injured when a bus fell into a road side ditch near Savar Cantonment at about noon.

The injured were admitted to different hospitals and health complexes in Savar and Dhaka.

In another incident, a minor boy, Nurul Islam, was crushed under the wheels of a running truck at Savar Bus Stand at about 7 am.

Separate cases were filed with the local police.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star has launched the "Save Dhaka" campaign to raise public awareness about the problems faced by our favourite city.

With a view to finding solutions to the existing problems The Daily Star is organising, in collaboration with the Post Graduate Centre, BUET,

### A Roundtable Conference on Save Dhaka today between

10 am and 1 pm at the BUET  
(Council Bhavan).

All architects, town planners, engineers, social scientists, and citizens interested in working for the betterment of Dhaka city are

### Invited to Join the Roundtable as Observers.

## Elimination of child labour Negotiators reach accord on revised MOU

By Staff Correspondent

Negotiators, in a meeting in the city yesterday have tentatively agreed on a framework for a revised draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) to eliminate the use of child labour from the country's garment sector.

"We have tentatively agreed on a framework to formulate a revised draft MOU at the meeting," said a well-placed source involved in the talks.

He said that the draft is expected to be finalised at the next meeting, which would also include government representatives. The date for that meeting is yet to be fixed, but it would be held sometime next week, he added.

All the negotiating parties, in principle, agreed to resolve the two remaining outstanding issues relating to rehabilitation of the retrenched child workers and setting up an independent monitoring mechanism to verify compliance with the ban on the use of child labour

in the garment sector, the sources pointed out.

Yesterday's meeting, which lasted over two hours, was attended by US Ambassador David N Merrill, a representative of the local Unicef office, ILO representative Paul J Harvey and a team of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters' Association executive committee members led by its President Redwan Ahmed, MP.

The source said that all parties, in principle, agreed to allow ILO to act as an independent monitor to supervise compliance with the ban on the use of child labour in the garment sector. At an earlier meeting, the BGMEA had proposed the monitoring role for the ILO.

It was also agreed that supervision for the rehabilitation programme would be jointly carried out by Unicef and the ministry of Social Welfare.

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## Shrimp exporters for quota system

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters' Association (BFFEA), in an emergency general meeting (EGM) yesterday, decided to introduce a quota system in the shrimp sector.

The BFFEA also decided not to buy unhealthy shrimp from the farmers starting June 11 with a view to ensuring the quality of products.

These decisions come in the wake of a recent European Union threat to stop imports from Bangladesh unless the quality of shrimp is assured.

At the end of the EGM, Dr Aftabuzzaman, president of the association, briefed waiting journalists about the outcome of the meeting, held at a city hotel last night.

The association resolved that a committee would be formed to prepare and submit a report within three months recommending ways to implement the quota system.

Introduction of the quota restrictions has become necessary because the supply of

shrimps in the country is not sufficient to feed all the 115 processing factories, and also to avoid unhealthy competition among these factories, Dr Aftab explained.

"If we really want to survive in the international market by competing with India and Thailand, ensuring the quality of our shrimps is the only option before us," said the BFFEA president.

In yesterday's EGM all general and executive committee members of the association also pledged to abide by any measures to be prescribed by the government for quality control.

The association will penalise members for violating the standards.

Every member of the association also gave a written undertaking promising not to question any action taken by the executive committee.

Addressing briefly a post-briefing dinner, chief guest Abdullah Al-Noman, the Fish-See Page 12 Col 5

## Rajuk Commercial Plot Auction Notice

Most ideally located Commercial-cum-Residential plot Nos 37 and 39 of Road No 45 Gulshan North CA with two sides road facilities measuring more or less 619 Sqr Metre (9 katha 4 chattak) and 596 Sqr Metre (8 katha 14 chattak) respectively will be allotted for 99 years lease on open auction.

Applications on prescribed form with terms and conditions to be obtained from Janata Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk 500 (Taka five hundred) only in cash for each set (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from the intending bidders up to 2.00 PM on 25.6.95 for plot No 37 and up to 2.00 PM on 27.6.95 for plot No 39 respectively.

The auction will be held on 26.6.95 for plot No 37 and on 28.6.95 for plot No 39 in the Conference Room, 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10.00 AM.

Chairman

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Dhaka.