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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	729.24 (-0.11%)
Market capital Tk	43.23 billion
Transactions in volume	134986
Transactions in value Tk	21.28 million

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NEWS BRIEFS
JS advisory body meets today
 By Staff Correspondent
 The Business Advisory Committee of Parliament meets today to decide the duration and the business of the coming budget session beginning June 15. Parliamentary sources said yesterday Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, chairman of the committee, will preside the meeting scheduled at 11 am at the Sangsad Bhaban.

Hartal observed in Manikganj
 MANIKGANJ, June 12: A half-day hartal was observed in the district town today demanding trial of the killers of Sikim Ali. The 6 am to 2 pm hartal was called by the Manikganj district Awami League, reports UNB.

Gen Nasim returns home
 By Staff Correspondent
 Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Bir Bikram, returned home yesterday after a week-long goodwill visit to China at the invitation of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). He led a seven-member military delegation.

43 more killed in Turkey
 ANKARA, June 12: Twenty-five Kurdish rebels and 18 government soldiers were killed in clashes in several regions of southeast Turkey, authorities here said today as Turkey's security council called for the extension of a state of emergency, reports AFP.

Elimination of child labour

Fresh MOU readied, may be signed soon

Parties involved in the elimination of child workers from the country's garments industry have completed a fresh accord and are expected to sign it after a meeting with the government next week, reports UNB.

Sources said yesterday that negotiators of the parties to the issue have finalised the memorandum of understanding (MOU) after making some changes in the draft prepared jointly by all those concerned.

The proposed MOU, before the latest revision, had suggested entrusting the International Labour Organisation (ILO) with the task of monitoring the entire process of elimination and rehabilitation of the child workers.

But according to the revised draft, to be placed in the meeting with the government, the Unicef and the US embassy in Dhaka will also play 'indirect roles' in the monitoring task, a source said.

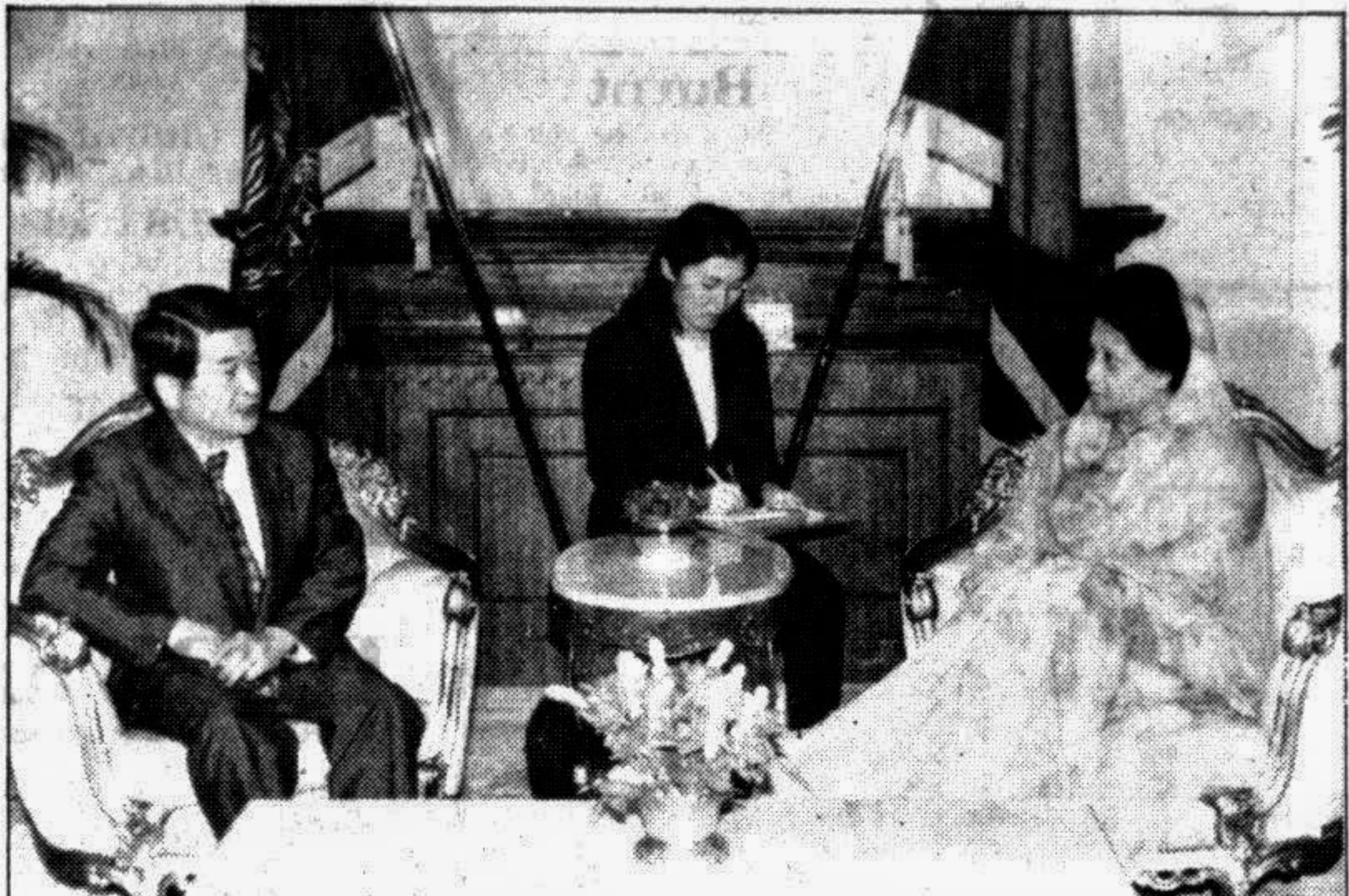
However, the main responsibility of monitoring would be performed by the ILO, the sources said.

The latest MOU has been finalised after some half a dozen meetings among representatives of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BGMEA), Unicef, ILO and the US embassy.

When contacted, BGMEA president Redwan Ahmed said that the whole issue 'is in progress,' but declined to make further comment on the draft MOU at this stage of negotiations.

He, however, hoped that the parties concerned would soon reach an amicable solution on the crucial child labour issue.

Negotiations for the MOU began afresh on May 29 after the BGMEA agreed to another round of talks following a



Visiting Japanese Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Hakuo Yanagisawa called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. — PID photo

Manzur murder case Emdad, Shams asked to be approvers

By Staff Correspondent

CID investigators have proposed to at least two of the three ex-army officials, arrested in connection with the 1981 murder of Maj Gen Abul Manzur, to become the state witnesses in the case, according to sources close to the investigators.

Maj (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Huq and Lt Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman have been approached by the investigators to become approvers or state witnesses in the case. But none of the two have so far accepted the proposal, the sources said.

Maj Gen (ret'd) Abdul Latif, the other arrested army official, has not yet received any such proposal, the sources added.

Family members of Emdad and Shamsur Rahman told The Daily Star that they received some 'ghost' telephone calls, threatening the family members.

Some of the callers warned that the proposal for becoming state witnesses must not be accepted, Emdad's wife said.

"I do not know what sort of decision my husband would make regarding such a proposal," she said when asked about it.

When contacted, a relative of Shamsur Rahman declined to talk on the matter.

Meanwhile, jail officials in

Tree plantation drive begins today

The National Tree Plantation Drive-95 begins today, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the drive in Rajarampur in Dinajpur district today. She will also distribute the Prime Minister's Tree Plantation Award on the day to persons and organisations for their outstanding contributions to tree plantation.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate an exhibition of trees in Dinajpur today and in the capital on June 21 marking the launching of the drive.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will plant a sapling in the premises of 'Bangabhaban'.

In a message, President Biswas urged all sections of the people to plant more trees not

Japanese minister tells PM Political stability needed to attract investment

Visiting Japanese parliamentary vice-minister for Foreign Affairs, Hakuo Yanagisawa yesterday called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office, report agencies.

The Japanese vice-minister assured Begum Zia of continued Japanese assistance to Bangladesh and said Tokyo would always stand by Dhaka as a tested friend. He appreciated Bangladesh's liberal economic policies.

He also thanked the Prime Minister for Dhaka's support to Tokyo's bid for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council and said her visit to Japan in March 1994 was the turning point of bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Japanese minister underscored the need for maintaining political stability in Bangladesh to attract more foreign investment.

Vice-minister Yanagisawa concluded his three-day tour of Bangladesh by praising the development works taking place in the country.

Yanagisawa expressed his appreciation while talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport prior to his departure for Vietnam yesterday afternoon.

"I visited Bangladesh after 10 years, and I am happy to see that there have been massive changes in Bangladesh," he said.

He praised Bangladesh's active role for development in

Justice Rouf's elevation Hearing of writ resumes today

The recent elevation of Justice Abdur Rouf to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court followed action that violated the Constitution three, the High Court was told yesterday, reports UNB.

Holding of two constitutional posts simultaneously by Justice Rouf, his return to the High Court and appointment in the Appellate Division were all contrary to the Constitution, Amirul Islam, Bar at-Law, said while moving a writ petition filed Sunday by Convener of the 'Coordination Council for Lawyers.' Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, challenging the appointment of Justice Rouf.

After the day's hearing, the HC bench comprising Justice Habibur Rahman Khan and Justice M M Ruhul Amin directed the Attorney General or

Petition filed for pulling up lawyer on contempt charges

A petition for drawing contempt rule was filed in the High Court yesterday against Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, convener of the 'Coordination Council for Lawyers,' reports UNB.

Advocate Dr Ahmed Hossain filed the application saying that Shamsul Huq Chowdhury made contemptuous utterances against judges of both the divisions of the Supreme Court in speeches and in statements published in newspapers on different occasions.

The bench comprising Justice M Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman fixed the hearing for today.

9 RU Shibir activists held

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, June 12: Nine activists of the Islami Chhatra Shibir, accused of killing two students in February, were arrested by police during an early morning raid at two halls of the Rajshahi University today, reports UNB.

The Jamaat-backed Shibir activists allegedly killed two students and ransacked a number of halls on February 11 and 12.

In simultaneous raids on

Treason charge against Sharif

LAHORE, June 12: Pakistani opposition leader Nawaz Sharif has been accused by the Punjab provincial government of committing treason, an offence punishable with death, officials here said today, reports AFP.

More than a dozen associates of Sharif, a former prime minister, have also been accused of treason in a case registered with the local police, said provincial chief public prosecutor Hafeez Akhter.

The cases involve charges

Depression weakens, tidal waters recede

By Staff Correspondent

The monsoon depression which caused tidal surge along the coastal belt Sunday, has weakened and crossed the Sitakundu point in Chittagong yesterday afternoon.

The tidal surge hit the coastal belt of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali and the offshore islands of the southern districts. The water began receding from 4 pm yesterday.

The islands affected are Kutubdia, Moheshkhali, Teknaf, Sandwip, Anwara, Banshkhali and parts of Bhola district.

Our correspondents from Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Barisal say several thousand houses and shrimp beds were badly damaged as tidal water entered the offshore islands.

Around 50 thousand people were affected by the tidal surge in Chittagong region. The arrival of ships at the Chittagong port channel remained suspended till last night due to inclement weather while four outgoing vessels from the port jetties sailed out yesterday.

The Met office recorded 130 mm rainfall in Chittagong during the 24 hours ended at 6 pm yesterday.

Though water receded from the low-lying areas in Cox's Bazar, Daighata island in Moheshkhali thana, Rajghat and Sikderpara in Matarbari and Shahpari, Dakshingona and Jalapara areas in Teknaf remained under one to two feet water as the river Naf was overflowed, district sources said.

The low land and char areas in Bhola were submerged under two to three feet water following heavy rains and breaches in embankments.

The Met office in Dhaka

Tk 11 cr decline in rly income

By Morshed Ali Khan

Bangladesh Railway's (BR) total income in fiscal 1993-94 declined by nearly eleven crore taka.

The income was Taka 287.12 crore in '93-94 and Taka 298.06 crore in '92-93.

The deficit of the BR, however, decreased by Taka 3.44 crore and stood at Taka 95 crore in '93-94 as against Taka 98.44 crore in '92-93.

During the last twelve years, BR's deficit has risen from Tk 4.02 crore in 1982-83 to the present level. The highest deficit was recorded in 1987-88 - Tk 153.11 crore.

In a report published recently by the Ministry of Communications, the fall in the BR's earnings was attributed to factors ranging from infrastructural weaknesses to lack of renovative projects for its rolling stocks.

In addition, it was pointed out that frequent pay-hike of its 43,000-strong workforce was a main factor behind the shortfall.

The report also focuses on the Fourth Five-year Plan that ends this fiscal. The total government fund for the railway sector during the plan period was Tk 997 crore.

In 1993-94, the BR carried 15,000 units of container traffic and within the first six months of the current fiscal, some 10,069 units of containers were handled by it. Eighty new wagon containers were added to the existing fleet.

During the current fiscal, the BR has undertaken 32 projects which include remodeling old stations, replacing sleepers, repair of bridges, rehabilitation of 90 diesel locomotives and 80 passenger carriages.

The report further reveals that out of 62,000 acres of land owned by the BR across the country, about 37,000

PRE-BUDGET INTERVIEW

'Employment generation should be top priority'

Chairman of the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad said that employment generation should be the top priority in the country's economic policy formulation.

"The crucial need is to anchor the whole approach to development on employment generation, which in turn is dependent on basic education, basic training and basic health," he said in an interview with The Daily Star.

An economist and a former Research Director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dr Ahmad, however, added that the short-term economic outlook of the country appears to be bleak as little improvement is expected both in agricultural and industrial sectors.

He was interviewed by Rashed Mahmud Titumir.

Following are the excerpts: **The Daily Star (DS):** How do you evaluate the performance of the economy? What are the problem areas?

Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad (QKA): On the basis of two crucial yardsticks-economic growth and poverty alleviation-the performance of the economy has been sluggish, and also well below the potential. The major problem areas include failure of investment private, public and foreign to

policy deficiency.

DS: Do you think the priorities set in the last budget were implemented properly? Are the poverty alleviation programmes gainfully targeted?

QKA: While social sectors such as education and health were rightly given well deserved attention in the last budget, the failure to reflect the primacy of agriculture in the policy formulation and resource allocation process constituted unfortunate disregard for the realities on the ground. The major problem was the failure to address the issue of employment generation in appropriate sectors. Yet another was the inadequate attention given to the promotion of backward linkages for garments industry. Poverty alleviation efforts through 'Safety nets' have achieved some successes. But, in a country where the majority is poor, it is not the 'safety net' but the mainstream economic programme which must be anti-poverty oriented. In this context, the economic reform programme

See Page 12 Col 3



Officers and employees of the Bangladesh Pali Unnayan Board staged a demonstration in front of the Secretariat yesterday demanding immediate withdrawal of the retrenchment of 765 employees. — Star photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue Dhaka

Notice

The date for advance income tax payment for the 4th quarter of the current financial year is June 15, 1995.

The advance income tax payable by the concerned taxpayer is to be paid through I. T. Form No. I. T. 31 (B) (amended) challan.

The taxpayers should pay the advance tax filling in the said challan form as usual by replacing the figure "74 (1)" with the figure "64" in as many places as it occurs in the form.

It may be mentioned that the financial limit of total income for payment of advance income tax for all classes of assesseees is now Taka 1,00,000/=.

All assesseees concerned are requested to pay their advance income tax for the 4th quarter of the current financial year relevant to the assessment year 1995-96 under this system by June 15, 1995. Simple interest @10% per annum will be leviable if the advance income tax is not paid or paid at a lesser amount than due.

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National Board of Revenue