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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	734.07 (+0.70%)
Market capital Tk	43.51 billion
Transactions in volume	318419.50
Transactions in value Tk	36.71 million

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NEWS BRIEFS

Sarbahara Party activist killed

JHENIDAH, June 14: A member of the outlawed Sarbahara party was killed during a gunfight with police at a village in Sreepur thana of Magura district today, reports UNB.

15 state views on fertiliser crisis

SHERPUR, June 14: Fifteen people, including acting Deputy Commissioner of the district, have stated their views before the Judicial Inquiry Commission on the fertiliser crisis. Officials said five TNOs, eight farmers, the DC and Deputy Director of the Agricultural Extension Department appeared before the commission.

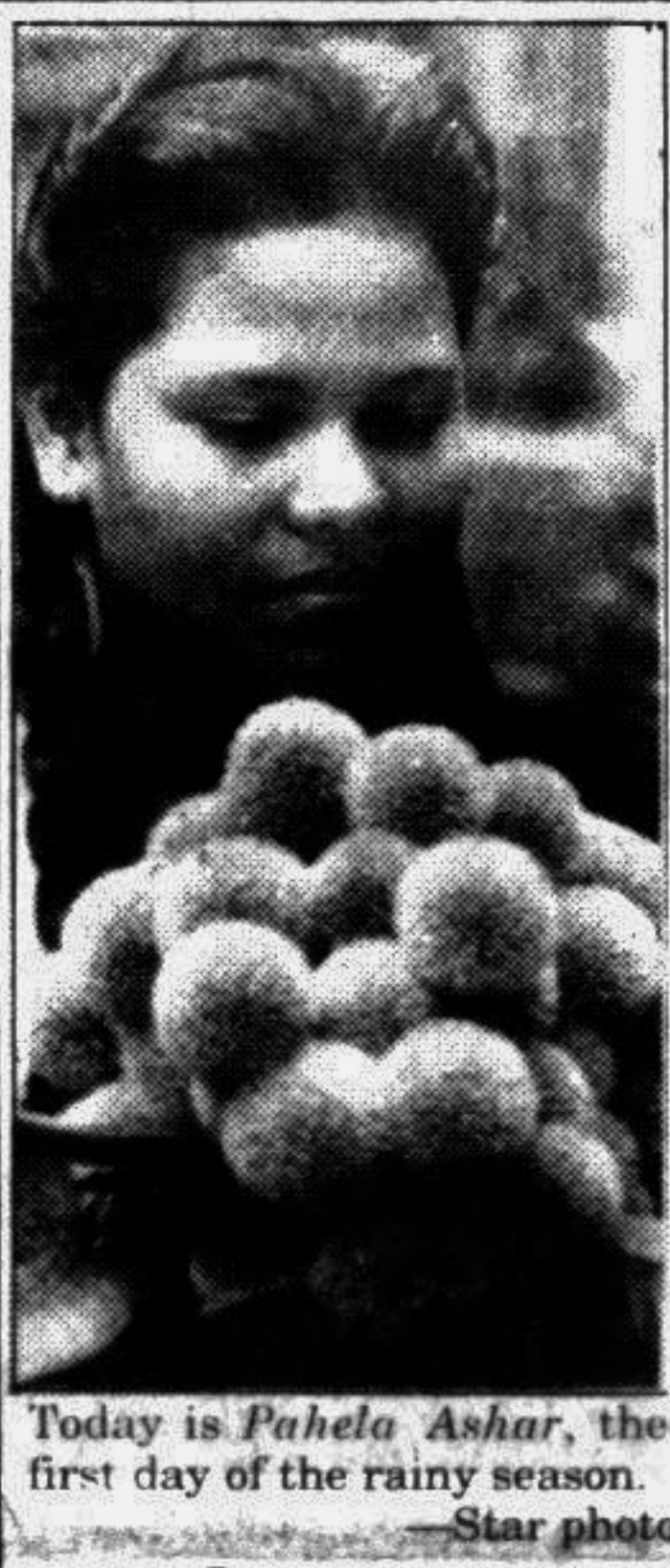
Budget today

Star Report
 Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman is set to present the 24th national budget (1995-96) today in the Jatiya Sangsad with an urgency to expedite the slow growth rate while allowing for political expediency for the looming polls.
 The budget session begins at 3 pm, without the Opposition which had earlier quit Parliament on the caretaker government issue. The Opposition also boycotted the last budget session.
 This will be the fifth budget placed before the 5th parliament and it will also be Saifur Rahman's sixth budget as a finance minister in two BNP governments.
 The Finance Minister's

budget speech is scheduled to be broadcast on radio and television live from Parliament.
 The minister is likely to reiterate the government's commitment to the ongoing reforms, including privatisation and other measures to activate the private sector, while abstaining from announcing any painful measures ahead of the next general elections.
 Fuelled primarily by a food-grain production shortfall of some three million tonnes, the GDP growth rate during the outgoing fiscal is projected to stand at around five per cent, lower than the targeted six per cent.
 The budget is also expected to provide strong backing for

Experts see no way out Country heading for a constitutional crisis

By Asiuzzaman
 The country is heading towards a constitutional crisis and no solution to the current political impasse is possible within the framework of the Constitution if the opposition parties still stay outside Parliament, legal and constitutional experts have said.
 "The political impasse will turn into a constitutional crisis immediately after the seats of the opposition members fall vacant because of consecutive 90 days of absence from Parliament session," said one senior constitutional expert.
 "Even if the ruling party accepts the demand for a caretaker government it will not be possible to implement that since Parliament will not have a two-thirds majority," the expert, befavouring the ruling party told The Daily Star.
 The opposition abstention has already reached 88 consecutive days since March 1, 1994 and is likely to complete 90 days within the first three days of the budget session.
 An amendment is needed to insert the provision of a caretaker government in the Constitution which is not possible without two-thirds majority (221 votes) in the 330-seat Parliament.
 Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia of the ruling BNP, Dr Kamal Hossain of the Gano Forum, Barrister Moudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party, Barrister K S Nabi of the Awami League and Advocate Sheikh Anser Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami and some other legal experts agreed



Today is *Pahela Ashar*, the first day of the rainy season. — Star photo

AL, JP, Jamaat march toward JS today

By Staff Correspondent
 The three main opposition parties — the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — will stage demonstrations and march to the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban from separate venues today to protest the presentation of the budget in the 'ineffective' parliament and press their demand for elections under a caretaker government.
 The Awami League will hold a rally before the National Press Club at three this afternoon. Later, it will bring out a procession to march towards the parliament building.
 The Jatiya Party will stage a demonstration at the same time at the Mohakhali rail crossing and later bring out a procession for marching towards the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.
 The city chapter of the Jamaat-e-Islami will also stage a demonstration at the north gate of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque at 5:30 pm.

Zillur protests report on MPs' perks

Secretary General of the Awami League Zillur Rahman sent a protest statement to The Daily Star yesterday night which referred to a report, "Resigning MPs still enjoying perks" published in our Wednesday's issue.
 The translated full text of the AL Secretary General's statement signed by Syed Fazlul Huq, AL Office Secretary is reproduced below:
 "Secretary General of the Bangladesh Awami League in a statement on the item 'Resigning MPs still enjoying perks' while severely criticising and protesting said the Honourable Speaker of the Parliament by giving his ruling

ANNUAL SESSION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON ESCAP REGIONAL SPACE APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the inaugural session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on regional space application programme for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Confce on space science opens Dhaka striving hard to devise action plans

A three-day conference of the Inter-governmental Consultative Committee (ICC) on the ESCAP Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development began in Dhaka yesterday to strengthen interaction in facing natural disasters, reports UNB.
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia opened the conference at the International Conference Centre, saying space science and technology can contribute significantly to proper utilisation of natural resources and monitoring of natural disasters.
 She noted that the countries of the Asia-Pacific region had achieved significant success in the application of space technology for sustainable development.
 "In conformity with our policy of peaceful co-existence," she said, "we are applying this technology for utilising the natural resources, monitoring environmental disasters, meteorology and satellite communications."
 The Prime Minister said Bangladesh intends to work in connection with other ICC member countries in this field.
 The conference will review the implementation of the recommendations of the ministerial conference, particularly the ESCAP/UNDP regional project on integrated applications of geographic information systems and remote sensing for sustainable natural resources and environmental management.
 It will also finalise the revised terms of reference of the

Ershad may not be produced in Ctg court today

CHITTAGONG, June 14: Deposed president H M Ershad, charged with involvement in the Gen Manzur murder case, may not be produced before the CMM's Court tomorrow (Thursday).
 Earlier, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate had issued warrant of arrest against Ershad, already serving 20 years in jail in three cases, in connection with the murder.
 The CMM also directed the Dhaka Central Jail authorities to produce Ershad before the court tomorrow, the scheduled

Action against Moudud: JP awaits Ershad's directive

Star Report
 The central leadership of the Jatiya Party (JP) is yet to receive any directive from party chief H M Ershad, now in jail, regarding disciplinary action against Moudud Ahmed for his controversial comments in a recently-published book.
 The 29-member JP presidium, the highest policy-making body of the party, meets June 17 to discuss, among other issues, the adverse reaction created in and outside the organisation by the observations about Ershad in Moudud's book, titled 'Democracy and the Challenges of Development'.
 A former vice president

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Indian team due on June 23 to talk water issue

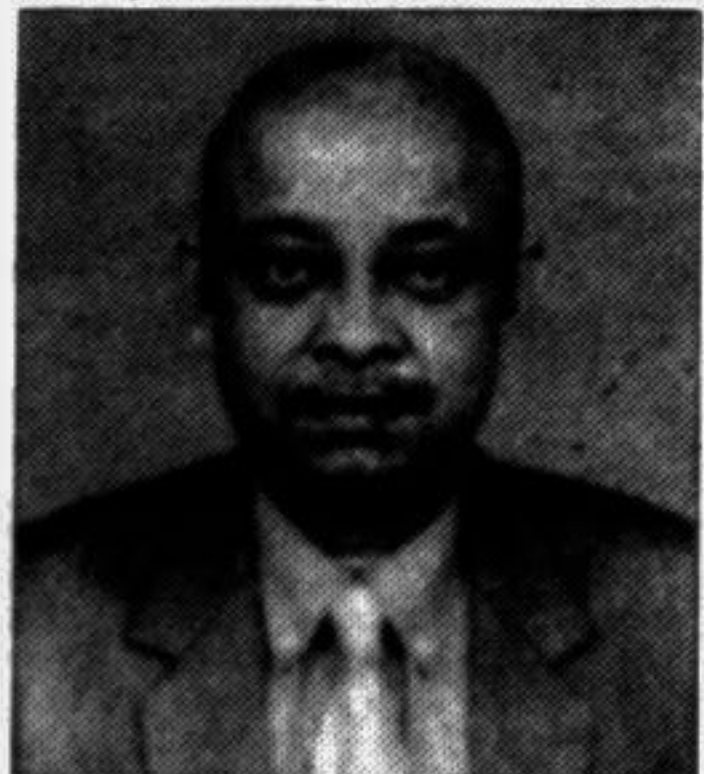
An Indian delegation is due in Dhaka on June 23 for official-level talks on the long-standing problem of sharing dry season flow of the Ganges, a source told UNB last night.
 The Indian Foreign Secretary, Salman Haider, is expected to lead his delegation to the talks.
 Bangladesh side will be headed by Foreign Secretary Faruq Sobhan.
 The coming round of talks will be of crucial importance to

See Page 12 Col 1

PRE-BUDGET INTERVIEW 'Social sectors should get priority'

President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) Badrul Ahsan believes that the budget for the next fiscal should give priority to social sectors.
 In an interview with The Daily Star, he said education is the most important sector in which we are far behind compared to the rest of the world. He also stressed the need for creating more job opportunities for tackling the problem of poverty.
 The interview was taken by Rafiq Hasan.
 Following is the text of the interview:
The Daily Star (DS): How do you evaluate the performance of the economy? What are the problem areas?
Badrul Ahsan (BA): Our economy is not performing upto the expected and required level. Economies of our neighbouring South East Asian countries, including the latest fast catching-up economies of China, Vietnam and Laos, are examples for us to follow. Barring the Indian subcontinent and most of Africa, rest of the world is having a good pace of development. Our problems are mainly political instability, lack of law and order, lack of skill, polluted environment in educational institutions, indiscipline, paucity of entrepreneurs, etc. Unlike the newly developed countries we

Although our macro economic policies are among the best in the world, we are failing to reach our target for reasons stated above.
DS: Do you think the priorities set in the last budget were implemented properly? Are the poverty alleviation programmes gainfully targeted? Is the mix between revenue and development expenditures justified?
BA: Priorities set in the last budget, having increased allocation and emphasis on health, education, infrastructure, family planning, etc. were quite appropriate. Some results have been achieved. We cannot expect overnight results with our scarce and limited resource allocation. It is a good sign that government is trying to reduce bureaucracy and red tapism.
 The government usually plays an indirect role in poverty alleviation. Production of more and more of goods and services are required for removing poverty. The government is responsible for creating a congenial atmosphere for production by ensuring law



Badrul Ahsan

even failed to attract foreign capital and technology. The developed world is looking for suitable investment bases worldwide for cheap production facilities. But we failed to take advantage of the opportunity. We also lack adequate infrastructural facilities.

HC issues rule on Justice Rouf, others

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon Justice Muhammad Abdur Rouf, asking him to explain under what authority he is holding the office of a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, reports UNB.
 The division bench comprising Justice Habibur Rahman Khan and Justice M M Ruhul Amin also made the Registrar of the Supreme Court and the government respondents in the case and fixed June 20 for hearing of the writ petition.
 The writ challenging the authority under which Justice Rouf is holding the office of a judge of the Appellate Division was filed by Convener of the Council for Lawyers Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury on June 11.
 Earlier, resuming the hearing for the third day, the petitioner's lawyer Amirul Islam, Bar-at-Law, said the Constitution should be interpreted as a whole to dispense the issue because a single article of the Constitution will not be enough to resolve the question.
 This court is competent to

3 major parties boycott meet ID card issue shouldn't affect polls, says CEC

By Staff Correspondent
 Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice AKM Sadeque yesterday reiterated his commitment to introduce identity (ID) cards for voters but added that in no way the elections should be affected for non-completion of ID cards.
 "Either because of 'Act of God' or for technical reasons — whatever may be the cause, if work on the ID card project is not completed in time, all should remain determined to hold elections as per the schedule," said Justice Sadeque during a meeting with representatives of some political parties at the Election Commission's conference room.
 Representatives of the ruling BNP and opposition Gano Forum, Workers Party and Jamaat-e-Islami — boycotted it terming the exercise "futile and meaningless."
 The lone MP elected from the National Democratic Party (NDP) Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury also did not attend.
 "How and under whose authority the election will be held do not bother me. My only concern is to hold it in a free and fair manner," the CEC said after hearing the views of the political leaders, who suggested several measures for conducting fair election.
 Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar, Shipping Minister M K Anwar, State Minister for Establishment M Aminul Hoque and Anwar Ali Siddique, MP, from the BNP, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Shamsuddoha, Advocate Zahirul Islam and Mofizul Islam Kamal from Gano Forum, Shah Alam, Iqbal Mazumder, Faresh Chandra Shah and Quamrul Islam from Workers Party and Moulana Obaidul Haq, MP, Barrister Korban Ali and ARM Abdul Matin from IOJ took part in the discussion. Senior EC officials were also present.
 Referring to the proposals

Baul Festival begins

By Staff Correspondent
 The first three-day National Baul (folk singer) Festival began in the city yesterday amid much enthusiasm.
 Hundreds of bauls from different parts of the country are participating in the festival, organised by the Lokshilpi Goshthi, at the foot of the banyan tree in the Ramna Green.
 Dressed in traditional panjabi-lungi and equipped with folk musical instruments, the baul singers enlivened a large crowd in the park with their performances yesterday evening till midnight.
 Elderly baul poet and singer and president of Lokshilpi Goshthi Sarder Ameer Ali inaugurated the unique festival in the afternoon saying, "The bauls have no caste, they are known as human beings and that is their religion. Let the bauls bring us the message



Two bauls (folk singers) performing at the Ramna batamul in the city on the first day of the three-day national festival yesterday. — Star photo

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা
 আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন
 আপনার শিককে টিকা দিন

দোকান ভাড়া ও অন্যান্য কর পরিশোধ সংক্রান্ত জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন মার্কেটসমূহের সম্মানিত বরাদ্দ প্রাপক/ব্যবসারত ব্যক্তিবর্গ, ঢাকা মহানগরীর সিনেমা হলসমূহের মালিক/সম্বন্ধিকারী, বিজ্ঞাপন প্রচারনী সংস্থাসহ সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ সকলের অবশ্যিক জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, সিটি করপোরেশন কর্তৃক করপোরেশন অধ্যাদেশ ১৯৮৩ (সংশোধিত ১৯৯০) এর বিধান মতে এই সকল বাতে ভাড়া ও করের খেলাপী ব্যক্তিবর্গ/প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে ইতিমধ্যে আদালতে ১৪০০টি মামলা দায়ের করিয়াছে এবং আরও মামলা দায়েরের প্রকৃতি চলিতেছে। আদালত কর্তৃক সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে সমন/শ্রেফতারী পরোয়ানা জারী হইতেছে এবং বিচারকার্য শুরু হইয়াছে।

২। অতএব, এখন পর্যন্ত যাহারা তাহাদের নিকট হালমাস পর্যন্ত এই সকল বাতে পাওনা কর পরিশোধ করেন নাই, তাহাদিগকে আদালতের মাধ্যমে জড়ানোর মত হযরানীমূলক ব্যবস্থা এড়ানোর জন্য অবিলম্বে তাহাদের নিকট পাওনা ভাড়া/কর অবিলম্বে পরিশোধ করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

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MICRO CREDIT SCHEME FOR THE URBAN POOR

ATTENTION: NGOs WORKING WITH URBAN DISADVANTAGED GROUPS

Bank of Small Industries and Commerce Bangladesh Limited (BASIC) has launched a Micro Credit Scheme which provides for collateral-free loans to the urban poor, delivered direct and also through intermediation of NGOs. The Bank wants to enter into agreements with NGOs to utilize their services for speedy implementation of the Scheme. The NGOs selected may avail loans from the Bank to on-lend to the urban poor and / or provide only non-financial services under mutually agreed upon terms. Details of eligibility criteria and agreements to be signed will be discussed and worked out on individual basis at the time of negotiation.

Interested NGOs (only registered ones) with proven track record, administrative capability, and at least three years experience in implementing development / credit programmes for the disadvantaged persons in urban / suburban areas are requested to contact at the address given below.

Address for contact: Mr. K. S. Tabrez, In-charge, Micro Credit Cell, BASIC, Main Branch, 73, Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000, and also district branches of BASIC at Chittagong, Comilla, Moulvi Bazar, Syhet, Rajshahi, Bogra, Jessore and Khulna.