

## Inside Today

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### ALCWC meets June 29, 30

By Staff Correspondent  
A two-day meeting of the  
Central Working Committee  
of the Awami League [ALCWC]  
will be held on June 29  
and 30 at the party's central  
office at Bangabandhu Avenue  
in the city. Party chief Sheikh  
Hasina will preside over the  
meeting, scheduled to begin at  
3 pm on June 29.

### Hasina condemns killing

Awami League president  
Sheikh Hasina yesterday con-  
demned the killing of her  
party leader Anisur Rahman  
Sardar alias Anis Member of  
Khulna. Sheikh Hasina also  
expressed her deep sorrow at  
the death of eminent education-  
ist and member of the Ex-  
ecutive Committee of Rang-  
pur district Awami League,  
Nurul Islam BSc, reports  
UNB.

### French food aid

Bangladesh will receive 2.3  
thousand tons of wheat from  
France as food aid this year.  
The annual agreement con-  
cerning the grant of food aid  
was signed between the  
French and Bangladesh gov-  
ernments in Paris yesterday,  
according to a report received  
in Dhaka, reports BSS.

### Folksong festival begins today

A week-long folksong festi-  
val will begin at the Shilpa-  
kala Academy premises to-  
day. Noted folksong artists  
from different parts of the  
country will participate in the  
festival organised by the  
academy, reports UNB.

### Two arrested with Indian pistol

RAJSHAHI, June 16: The  
BDR personnel of 14 rifle bat-  
talion caught red-handed two  
persons with an Indian pistol  
at Sepahipara village under  
the battalion area today. The  
two persons, were identified as  
Md Abdul Matin, 26, of  
village Sepahipara, under  
Charghat and the other Md  
Shahidul Islam, 25, of village  
Dasmari of Charghat thana  
under Rajshahi district, re-  
ports BSS.

### IA flights reduced

The Indian Airlines de-  
cided to reduce the number of  
its flights on Dhaka-Calcutta  
route from four to three a  
week due to operational rea-  
sons, an airlines spokesman  
said here yesterday, reports  
BSS.

The decision to withdraw  
the flight between Calcutta-  
Dhaka and Dhaka-Calcutta on  
Wednesday takes effect from  
June 21 until further notice.

## Saifur sees nothing wrong with 'pro-poll' budget

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur  
Rahman yesterday defended  
the just announced budget for  
the 1995-96 fiscal as being  
good for the people and the  
economy.

"What is wrong about a  
budget which is good for the  
people and the economy, and  
if it is termed a pro-election  
budget," he said while re-  
sponding to criticism that the  
budget tilted towards political  
expediency in the light of the  
upcoming general elections.

The finance minister was  
addressing a post-budget press  
conference at the Jatiya  
Sangsad conference room. State  
Minister for Finance Mojibor  
Rahman, State Minister for  
Planning A Moin Khan, Governor  
of Bangladesh Bank Khurshed  
Alam, Finance Secretary Nasimuddin  
Ahmed, NBR Chairman Dr  
Akbar Ali Khan and ERD Sec-  
retary Lutfullah Majid also  
attended the press conference.



Saifur at post-budget press  
conference. — Star photo

try's development objectives  
— the priority concern being  
poverty reduction, education,  
health, human resource de-  
velopment and rural devel-  
opment.

He was critical of the  
comments made by some  
economists who, he said, held  
"socialistic views", saying that  
the budget only provided lip-  
service to poverty alleviation  
programmes.

A Tk 1,531 crore budget  
allocation has been made for  
various targeted poverty al-  
leviation programmes, includ-  
ing vulnerable group feeding,  
food for work, test relief, food  
for education and a number of  
micro-credit programmes, the  
minister pointed out.

"But durable poverty re-  
duction can only take place  
with a durable development  
process," Rahman said. It will  
"only take place through em-  
ployment creating, sustain-  
able and pro-poor growth."

The finance minister also  
responded to a query by a  
noted economist as to why a  
lump sum allocation of Tk  
3,190 crore was kept sepa-  
rately.

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## Budget suited to time Budget lacks direction

By Staff Correspondent

The country's top business  
leaders yesterday welcomed  
the proposed budget as suited  
to the needs of the time. Some  
economists were, how-  
ever, critical of the lack of di-  
rection towards achieving the  
goal of a robust economy.

Welcoming the budget, the  
Executive Committee of the  
Federation of Bangladesh  
Chambers of Commerce and  
Industry (FBCCI) said it was  
largely in keeping with the  
needs of the time.

An emergency meeting of the  
committee, chaired by its  
president Salman F Rahman,  
noted that the budget pro-  
posals were pro-private sector  
development and would be  
helpful in boosting industrial  
production and export, ac-  
cording to a press release of the  
FBCCI.

The meeting said a 'good  
feature' of the budget was the  
death of eminent education-  
ist and member of the Ex-  
ecutive Committee of Rang-  
pur district Awami League,  
Nurul Islam BSc, reports  
UNB.

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### News Analysis

## Budget: Pros & cons at a glance

By S Y Bakht

The proposed budget for  
fiscal 1995-96 appears to  
please almost everybody in  
the business world. But the  
big question is, will it suit the  
economy? And more impor-  
tantly, will it accelerate the  
much needed GDP growth  
rate?

Well, the performance of  
the economy throughout the  
next fiscal will be the final  
benchmark to measure the  
efficacy of the proposed budget.  
Till then, the verdict is out.

A preliminary review of  
the Finance Minister's budget  
speech, however, reveals some  
positive as well as a few  
negative aspects. Some of the  
positive points even appear to  
have certain inherent flaws.

By and large the budget  
proposals should help activate  
the private sector, both in the  
industrial and agricultural

fields. Tax slabs for corpora-  
tions and financial institutions  
are being lowered, import  
duty on agri-inputs is being  
sharply reduced and in some  
cases withdrawn and duty on  
import of 1,028 intermediate  
raw materials are also slated  
to be lowered.

These measures will help  
enhance the competitive edge  
of the existing industries and  
increase the investment rate  
while providing the agricul-  
ture and agro-based industries  
sector a much needed boost.

The proposals also include  
fixing the highest slab of  
customs duty at 50 per cent  
from the current 60 per cent  
in line with the Uruguay  
Round Trade Agreement  
stipulations. But some cham-  
bers are concerned that not  
enough attention has been  
given to protect the domestic  
industries.

The proposals also favour  
both the jet-age travellers and  
visitors alike. The travel  
quota is being raised to 3,000  
US dollars per annum while

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narrow export base.

The capital market is also  
going to get a much deserved  
boost. Exemption of capital  
gains tax on share transfers,  
except bonus shares, and  
raising income tax deduction  
limits on share dividends have  
been recommended.

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## JCD leader shot dead in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A JCD leader and student  
of Titumir College was shot  
dead at Nayatola in the city  
Thursday night by some  
unidentified miscreants.

The armed miscreants  
waylaid at Nayatola and shot  
Shariful Islam, 22, a BA stu-  
dent in the chest from close  
range while he was returning  
to his Mohakhali house, police  
said yesterday.

Fatally injured Sharif, son  
of Shamsul Islam, was rushed  
to Dhaka Medical College  
Hospital by people nearby  
but doctors there declared  
him dead.

Family sources said Sharif,  
former AGS of Titumir Col-  
lege, was a central leader of  
the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.  
The sources could not give  
any clue to the murder.

Police said they were in-  
vestigating the murder.



Relatives of Shariful Islam wailing after his killing yesterday. — Star photo

Restore discipline  
in health sector,  
PM tells docs

Prime Minister Begum Kha-  
leda Zia yesterday emphasised  
the need for the restoration of  
discipline and accountability  
in the health sector to ensure  
treatment of commonmen,  
reports UNB.

"We have to remove all  
mismanagement from the  
hospitals by taking strict  
measures", she said when some  
1,000 physicians of the  
Doctors Association of  
Bangladesh [DAB] called on  
the Prime Minister at her  
Hare Road office last night.

Begum Zia said the physi-  
cians of the country have a  
reputation for their duti-  
fulness and those are working  
abroad have earned a lot of  
praise.

The Prime Minister said  
her government has given due  
importance for meeting the  
five basic fundamental rights  
of people. The government  
has given top priorities to the  
education and health sectors,  
she added.

Begum Zia said the BNP  
Speaker said Page 12 Col 3

## UN okays RRF in Bosnia

UNITED NATIONS, June  
16: The UN Security Council  
approved early today a reso-  
lution authorising the de-  
ployment of a Franco-British  
rapid reaction force in Bosnia  
to bolster UN peacekeeping  
troops there, reports AFP.

Voting 13-0 with two ab-  
stentions, the Council gave  
the go ahead for the deploy-  
ment of the 12,500-member  
force, but set aside the ques-  
tion of how it will be fin-  
anced. Russia and China ab-  
stained.

The Security Council de-  
cided to authorise an increase  
in the UN force personnel,  
acting under the present  
mandate by up to 12,500  
additional troops, resolution  
998 said.

AP says: In one of the  
biggest offensives of the war,  
Bosnian government forces at-  
tacked rebel Serbs around

Sarajevo Friday in a battle to  
crack the three-year Serb  
siege of the city.

Serbs retaliated by firing  
on Sarajevo. Two male pa-  
tients were killed and six  
wounded — including women  
and children — when a shell  
slammed into the Kosevo  
hospital.

Meanwhile, Bosnian gov-  
ernment radio reported a sec-  
ond day of shelling of Gor-  
azde, an eastern Bosnian  
Muslim enclave, in which  
three people were killed and  
one was wounded.

In Sarajevo, five French  
UN soldiers and three civi-  
lians were wounded. One of  
them was seriously wounded  
by shell fragments in his head.

Two large artillery rounds  
also smashed close to the  
Bosnian capital's presidential  
building at around 7 pm.

Shaiikh Razzak Ali, how-  
ever, told the newsmen that  
he would soon invite them to  
a press conference. He did not  
elaborate.

Last chance for  
solution to crisis  
in JS may fade  
away: Rafiq

A senior government min-  
ister yesterday said the road  
to resolution of the present  
political crisis through dis-  
cussion in Parliament might  
be blocked if the Opposition  
did not turn up on June 19.

The opposition lawmakers  
who are abstaining from the  
House to press for elections  
under a neutral caretaker  
government will complete the  
constitutional limit of 90-day  
absence on June 19.

Talking to UNB, Works  
Minister Barrister Rafiqul Is-  
lam Mia said, "the last chance  
for a solution in Parliament  
may fade away if they do not  
turn up on that day and their  
seats are declared vacated as  
per Constitution."

Barrister Rafiq, a member  
of the BNP Standing Commit-  
tee, the highest policy making  
body of the party, said if the  
seats of boycotting MPs are

From Our Correspondent  
RAJSHAHI, June 16: The  
Rajshahi New Degree Gov-  
ernment College was declared  
closed till June 24 and the  
election to the students union  
has been postponed.

The college staff council in  
an emergency meeting on  
Thursday night took the deci-  
sion for closing the college to  
avert fresh violence following  
the internal conflict of the  
Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal [JC]  
over the election.

The students union elec-  
tion was scheduled to be held  
on June 26.

## Fertiliser production figure steady

By Reaz Ahmad

Fertiliser production in the  
country has nearly touched  
the target for fiscal 1994-95 at  
the end of the first 11 months.

The accident occurred  
when a Sylhet bound minibus  
from Dhaka collided head-on  
with a truck at Panchruki under  
Araiha thana at dawn. Nurunnahar Begum,  
43, and her son Apu, 8, died  
on the spot.

Of the injured, conditions  
of five persons were stated to  
be critical and they were  
rushed to the Dhaka Medical  
College Hospital.

Police seized the minibus