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**Inside Today**

**Article**

**Budget 1995-96:  
 Political  
 Expediencies will  
 Cast Dark Shadow  
 on its Performance**

Column : Crosscurrents  
 by CAF Dowlah  
**Page 4**

**Focus**

**Do we really need all  
 these coaching centres?  
 Partners fall out as the  
 honeymoon ends and  
 marriage rights: What  
 women should know**

**Page 5**

**International**

**Russian, Chechen  
 delegations agree to  
 truce till Friday**

**Baluch, Punjab govts  
 defy Benazir's request**

**Page 8**

**Business**

**Loss of soil fertility  
 posing threat to food  
 production**

**Opponents of Rao's reform  
 seek US investment**

**Pages 6, 7**

**STOCK MARKET**

DSE price index	750.74 (+0.35%)
Market capital Tk	44.69 billion
Transactions in volume	224549
Transactions in value Tk	27.15 million

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**PM opens tree  
 fair today**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate a week-long Tree Fair at Dhanmondi Club ground at 11 am today. On the occasion, a walkathon will begin from Manik Mia Avenue at 6:30 am, reports UNB.

**4 die in boat capsized**

SHERPUR, June 20: Four people, including women and children, drowned and a young man was missing after a boat capsized in Sonaimuri beel on Monday night. Local people said the boat, carrying a bridal party, capsized in the beel near Jhenagati thana as it was in the midst of a raging storm at about 9 am, reports UNB.

**Lightning claims 4**

From Our Correspondent RANGPUR, June 20: Three persons were killed by lightning in Taraganj and Saidpur thana areas yesterday afternoon. Nazim Rahman, 30, and his brother Afzal, 25, of Taraganj were struck by lightning when they went to the fields amidst a mild shower to look after their goats. They were killed on the spot. Another 13-year old, Arman, of Saidpur, was also killed in another lightning the same afternoon while working in a field.

**Rohingya stabbed  
 to death**

COX'S BAZAR, June 20: A young Rohingya refugee was stabbed to death by his compatriot at Damdamia Refugee camp-2 in Teknaf thana today. Police said a Rohingya refugee, Abul Kashem, 23, stabbed his fellow-countryman, Yunus, 22, in the camp at 10 am due to past enmity. Yunus succumbed to his injuries on way to Teknaf Hospital, reports UNB.

**Phensidyl seized**

A special squad of police in a drive yesterday seized 220 bottles of phensidyl from Muggapara area in the city. Police also arrested one Alamgir Hossain in this connection, reports UNB.

**2 killed, 60 hurt  
 in road accidents**

SAVAR, June 20: Two people were killed and 60 others injured in two road accidents on the Dhaka-Aricha and Nabinagar-Kaliakoir highways today, police said, reports UNB.

## More areas inundated as major rivers swell Flood situation grave

By Staff Correspondent

Floods hit four more districts, Comilla, Madaripur, Gopalganj and Bogra yesterday while the situation remained critical in greater Sylhet but further deteriorated in nine other affected districts.

Over 15 lakh people remained marooned in vast sheets of turbulent waters as downpour and hill waters from India swelled all the major rivers and their tributaries inundating more areas in the 15 districts affecting over one crore people.

Limited facilities hampered rescue of the marooned people in Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj and in 'haor' and 'char' areas of greater Mymensingh and Pabna while tens of thousands more

awaited succour in the affected districts of Gaibandha, Manikganj, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Feni and Comilla.

The distressed and hungry people are exposed to diseases but relief and water purifying tablets are in short supply, according to our correspondent's reports.

Dhaka-Sylhet rail link was restored at about 6 pm yesterday following repair of the Monu railway bridge in Moulvibazar. Sylhet's road and tele-links with Jaintapur, Goainghat and Companiganj remained snapped for the sixth day yesterday.

There was heavy rain in most places over the Brahmaputra basin and all places over the Ganges, the Meghna and

the South-Eastern hill basins ending at 9 am yesterday. The rainfall was 204 mm at Panchpukuria, 115.5 mm at Rajshahi, 75.2 mm at Parshuram, 71 mm at Kanaighat, 66 mm at Chittagong, 60 mm at Bhairab Bazar, 57.2 mm at Bogra and 57 mm at both Sylhet and Monu railway bridge sites during the period.

Train services in Bogra-Shantahar, Feni-Bilonia and Sylhet-Chhatak Bazar sections, disrupted Sunday night, were also restored, the sources said.

Two children, Razzak (7) and Zafar (6) drowned at Mollar Char in Sadar thana of Gaibandha Monday night.

Our Staff Correspondent See Page 12 Col 1



Flood waters gushing through the breached Sari-Gowain embankment in Sylhet yesterday. —Star photo by Iqbal Siddique

## Defence expenditure under fire in JS

By Staff Correspondent

Expenditure in the defence sector came under sharp criticism during the general discussion on the Supplementary Budget of 1994-95 in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

"They (the defence sectors) do not even care about the rules and regulations and spend as they like," charged Osman Gani Khan, a ruling party MP from Pabna.

"An additional amount of nearly Tk 300 crore has been spent for the defence sector without the consent of the Parliament." "The expenditure must be scrutinised before granting any fresh allocation," he demanded. He pointed out that the original allocation for the defence sector was Tk 1824 crore which soared upto

Tk 2,092 crore.

He said "we can not misuse the tax payers' money, most of whom are poor." He had raised the issue in the House on several other occasions earlier, he recalled.

Osman Gani, a former bureaucrat told the House that the Supplementary budget had been a frustrating one. The Tk 3,836 crore supplementary budget is about 40.7 per cent higher than the last year's original allocation.

Gani said Article 91 of the Constitution empowered the Parliament to approve supplementary allocations which does not mean the JS will "misuse its discretion."

Initiating the discussion, See Page 12 Col 8

## Absentee MPs Speaker likely to give decision today

By Staff Correspondent

The deferred discussion on vacating the seats of the absentee opposition members resumes in Parliament today while Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali is also likely to give his own observations on the matter in the light of the Rules of Procedure.

The debate began on Monday when former information minister Nazmul Huda submitted an application seeking leave of absence on behalf of some 149 opposition MPs whose abstention from Parliament crossed 90-day limit on the day.

The Speaker deferred the discussion after more than See Page 12 Col 4

## Opposition terms debate on MPs' absence a farce

Opposition leaders who quit Parliament more than a year ago criticised the ruling party's parliamentary debate on their 90-day absence, saying it's but "a fun, joke and farce."

Talking to UNB over phone, Tohael Ahmed of the Awami League, Barrister Moudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party, Moulana Matiar Rahman Nizami of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party and Salauddin Qader Chowdhury of the NDP said all exercise of the BNP government was designed to prolong its power in total disregard of Constitutional and parliamentary norms and practices.

In their almost identical See Page 12 Col 4

## Elimination of child labour BGMEA okays draft of revised MOU

By Staff Correspondent

The executive committee of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) yesterday approved a revised draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) to eliminate child labour from the country's garment sector.

"Subject to a few minor clarifications, the Executive Committee has decided to accept the revised draft MOU," said Redwan Ahmed, MP, president of BGMEA. The approval was given at a meeting of the committee at the association's office yesterday evening.

The revised draft incorpo-

rates provisions for the rehabilitation of the retrenched children and independent monitoring to verify compliance with the proposed ban on the use of child labour.

A mutually convenient date is now going to be fixed for the formal signing of the MOU, after consultations with the Government, the US embassy, Unicef and ILO, Ahmed added.

Signatories to the MOU will include the BGMEA, the Unicef and the ILO. According to the draft, the Unicef is expected to be involved in the rehabilitation of the re-

See Page 12 Col 3

## Next polls will be very crucial: PM

CHAPAINAWABGANJ,

June 20: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said the next general election will be very crucial for its results will have a far-reaching impact on country's independence and sovereignty, reports UNB.

"The next election will have to be held in 1996," she said voicing a note of caution that the country may again be dictated by foreign powers if BNP fails to return.

See Page 12 Col 3

## Prisoners to be voters: CEC

By Staff Correspondent

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice A. K. M. Sadeque yesterday said that the prisoners would be included in the new electoral rolls.

The Election Commission has already asked the Home Ministry to take necessary steps in this regard, the CEC told a delegation of a human rights organisation, says a press release.

A delegation of the Ain O Salish Kendra met the CEC at his office in the afternoon and handed over a memorandum demanding inclusion of the prisoners in the new voterlist.

Advocates Nizamul Haq Nasim, ZI Khan Panna and Adilur Rahman Khan, among others, were present.

## MSC-Abahani final today

Sports Reporter

Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krita Chakra, the two giants in the local sports arena, will mark their second clash of the season in the finale of the Beximco 13th Federation Cup

See Page 12 Col 7

## Talks to resume WB lending to power sector soon

By S Y Bakht

Negotiations to resume World Bank lending to the country's power sector, suspended since the late 1980s because of the high rate of system loss, is expected to start in Washington soon.

A government delegation led by Faizur Razzak, Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, is scheduled to leave for the US capital on Friday next.

Meanwhile, the World Bank has approved a 1.3 million US dollar technical assistance project loan to set up the proposed "Power Cell" under the Energy Ministry to

implement the Power Sector Reform Programme. The loan agreement is expected to be signed in Washington shortly.

Both the government and the Bank officials are hoping that progress would be made at the Washington meeting in resuming lending, to the power sector.

The meeting was proposed at the Paris Aid Club meeting in April last and the government delegation was also advised to bring project proposals with them.

But the World Bank is also seeking further improvements in curtailing the system loss

and increasing revenue collections. "The World Bank would like to resume lending to the power sector, but further qualitative improvement in the sector would be needed," said a Bank source.

The Bank had earlier suspended all lending to the power sector because of the excessive system loss and poor revenue collection.

Even in 1991 the combined average system loss with the Power Development Board (PDB) and the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) stood at 41 per cent, See Page 12 Col 5

## Tk 9.25 cr N'ganj Poura budget

NARAYANGANJ, June 20: Narayanganj Pourasabha has approved a Taka 9,25,10,243 budget with an estimated expenditure of Taka 8,82,41,706 for the fiscal 1995-96, reports BSS.

The budget shows a surplus in the total resources of the pourasabha including government grants and aid to the tune of Taka 42,68,537.

According to sources, the revenue receipts of the Pourasabha are, holding tax—Taka 3,12,33,382, tax on transfer of property—Taka 12,00,000, tax on hats and bazar—Taka 12,00,000, tax on bus terminal—Taka 5,00,000, tax on ferries—Taka 4,00,000, tax on trade

See Page 12 Col 8

## Bill on JMB (Land Acquisition) placed in Parliament

A bill aiming to check malpractice delaying land acquisition for the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, country's biggest development project, was introduced in parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Land M Kabir Hossain placed the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project (Land Acquisition) Bill 1995.

Thousands of houses were constructed on the lands to be acquired for the JMB, with an ill-motive to get compensation, the bill stated.

And, it said, this practice continued.

## Dental college closed for one month

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Dental College has been closed for one month following a clash between two student fronts on Monday in which at least six persons were injured.

The Academic Council at an emergency meeting the same day decided to close the college to avert further trouble on the campus.

The resident students, except the examinees, have been asked to vacate the hostel at Sobhanbagh. However, the normal official activities and scheduled examinations will continue.

## New equipment for Ctg port unlikely before Jan next

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, June 20: Equipment crisis in Chittagong port may persist for a few more months as a consignment of 20 modern equipment, now under process of procurement is unlikely to reach the port before January next.

A senior official of Chittagong port said that the decision to procure equipment was taken at a time when the crisis had already deepened.

Equipment crisis gripped Chittagong port, which was originally designed for handling break-bulk cargo, since 1982-83 fiscal year with the continuous arrival of con-

tainer cargo, port sources said.

The crisis deepened every year due to lack of sufficient modern equipment and at present, about 40 per cent of the annual cargo of the port is being carried by container vessels—mostly from Singapore, Colombo, Russia, Japan and India, sources said.

Transportation of goods through container ships has now become a global trend as the consignees prefer it for safety and security reasons.

To cope with the growing trend of containerised cargo, Chittagong port authority built two container terminals

known as multipurpose berths (MPB) which were formally inaugurated by the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in 1993.

But these MPBs could not be utilised properly due to lack of equipment, sources said.

In the backdrop of such critical situation, CPA decided to take lease of four straddle carriers from private parties besides procurement of other modern equipment from abroad. But the situation is unlikely to improve till arrival of the new equipment, sources said.

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