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# The Daily Star

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**STOCK MARKET**  
 DSE price index 755.94 (+0.89%)  
 Market capital Tk 45.00 billion  
 Transactions in volume 326369  
 Transactions in value Tk 39.45 million

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## JS debate on absentee MPs inconclusive

The Jatiya Sangsad debated for the second day yesterday the issue of vacation of the opposition members' seats since their absence from the House had crossed the 90-day limit.

Four ministers took part in the inconclusive debate. Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, said that the seats of the absentee members had already been vacated.

He, however, did not give any ruling on the issue.

"The seats have been vacated automatically. My job is to inform the House," the Speaker said when State Minister for Establishment Aminul Huq argued that the

seats would not be vacated since there is a case in this regard pending with the Supreme Court.

During the two-hour discussion, the Speaker also said, "When I will inform the House, the Parliament Secretariat will publish it in a gazette notification."

Razzak Ali, however, did not formally inform the House his decision on the issue before adjourning the session at 9:45 pm. The session resumes today to 5 pm.

Meanwhile, in a related development, the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) called a meeting of its parliamentary group today at 7:30 pm reportedly to finalise

the party's stance on the matter. During the two days of debate in the House, the ruling party lawmakers were sharply divided on the issue.

Some of the MPs expressed the view that constitutional provisions were very clear regarding the vacation of seats after 90 days of consecutive absence while some others argued that the House had the right to grant leave of absence.

The debate began Monday, the 90th day of the Opposition's absence, after former information minister Nazmul Huda submitted an application seeking 10 days' leave of absence for 149 opposition

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## PM opens tree fair in city

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated a week-long "Tree Fair '95" at the Dhanmondi Club ground in the city with the objective to turn the tree plantation programme into a social movement, reports UNB.

More than 40 stalls have been set up in the fair by 20 organisations from all over the country. Various plants, saplings, fruits, seeds, wooden goods and tree inputs are being displayed in the stalls.

The slogan of the fair is "Tree in Safeguarding the Environment and Economy."

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has organised the fair as part of the nationwide tree plantation drive

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## Flood death toll now 65 : Diarrhoea in Sunamganj 13 districts worst-hit

The overall flood situation further deteriorated yesterday in 13 of the 15 affected districts including Sunamganj while it remained unchanged in Sylhet and slightly improved in Moulvibazar.

The death toll from flood rose to 65 yesterday as six persons including 4 children drowned in Shahjadpur in Sirajganj and one in Companiganj and six bodies were recovered in Goainghat in Sylhet. One person was washed away by gushing waters in Jaintapur.

Bodies of the six persons were floated in flood water because there was no dry place for burial.

Diarrhoea has broken out in Doarabazar in Sunamganj and at least 40 people have been attacked, according to Sunamganj district control room.

The major rivers Padma, Brahmaputra, Meghna, Jamuna and Teesta and their tributaries swelled further as intermittent rainfall in their basin areas and onrush of hill waters from India continued, according to our correspondents.

The situation in Moulvibazar improved slightly following fall of the river Monu. But the Surma and the Kushiara in greater Sylhet recorded further rise. More areas reeled under flood waters in Sylhet.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre here however said the Brahmaputra and the Ganges recorded fall at the upstream points. The Centre also said the Surma and the Kushiara may start falling today.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday deputed five high officials including two joint-secretaries for monitoring relief operations in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Sirajganj and Gaibandha.

A number of local and foreign NGOs also started emergency relief operations in the worst-affected areas, said a press release.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet adds: Flood waters engulfed new areas in 4 thanas of Sunamganj district

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Mohammedan Sporting's young left-back Ruhul Amin (R) makes a spectacular sliding tackle on Abahani's Russian midfielder Sergei Moichev during their Beximco 13th Federation Cup final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Mohammedans won the tie-breaker after regulation period and extra time ended goalless. Details on Page 10. — Star photo

## AL has complete plan for food, shelter: Hasina

BOGRA, June 21: Awami League president Sheikh Hasina today said that if voted to power, her party will be able to ensure adequate food, clothes and employment for the people, reports UNB.

"We have a suitable and complete plan to supply adequate food and shelter for the 12 crore people of the country," she told a public meeting at the Dhunot High School ground here in the afternoon.

Hasina on the first day of her four-day organisational tour of northern districts addressed two public meetings and seven wayside gatherings in Bogra district today. Despite rains, people from and near came to listen to her at these meetings.

The Awami League chief

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## Drainage congestion caused early floods

By Reaz Ahmad and Masud Arif

Heavy rainfall within a short span of time and onrush of rain water from the upstream have caused 'drainage congestion' leading to early floods in the north eastern region of the country, weather experts say.

A monsoon depression in the north-east Bay last week contributed to a significant amount of rainfall in the eastern region and in the districts of Barisal Division, they pointed out.

"In Bangladesh it is not the total amount of rainfall but its distribution is the critical criterion for flood vulnerability or drought," said Sajedur Rahman, Deputy Director of the Storm Warning Centre.

He said that this year the amount of rainfall during the period from June 1 to 19 was very close to the total normal rainfall in the whole month. In some areas, the amount of rainfall has already surpassed the normal rainfall.

According to Met office sources, 477 mm rainfall was recorded in Mymensingh during the first 19 days of this month as against the normal amount of 454 mm in the whole month.

Similarly, Madaripur experienced 459 mm rainfall as against the normal 364 mm, Faridpur 370 mm as against 364 mm, Sylhet 754 mm as against 426 mm, Bogra 424 mm as against 323 mm, Barisal 488 mm as against 419

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## Flash floods in Assam: 14 die

NEW DELHI, June 21: Flash floods triggered by heavy rains have left 14 people dead in the far-eastern Indian state of Assam, inundating vast areas and driving some 400,000 people out of their homes, officials said today, reports AFP.

State officials told the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency that several rain-swollen rivers, including the Brahmaputra, were flowing above their normal levels affecting more than 1,200 villages.

Several stretches of highway were also under water, they said.

In adjoining Mizoram state air force helicopters rescued about 300 people marooned by the floods, which have also caused landslides in the mountainous region, an air force statement said here today.

### NEWS BRIEFS

**PM's meeting at Savar today**  
 SAVAR, June 21: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting at the Savar College ground tomorrow afternoon. Official sources said the Prime Minister would also be apprised of the progress of primary and mass education programmes in Savar thana, reports UNB.

**BNPPP meets today**  
 By Staff Correspondent  
 A meeting of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) will be held today at 7:30 pm at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan. Prime Minister and Leader of the House Khaleda Zia will chair the meeting which will discuss the present political situation and issues relating to current session of Parliament.

**Shibir enforces strike at RU**  
 From RU Correspondent  
 RAJSHAHI, June 21: No classes were held at the Rajshahi University today due to day-long student strike. The strike was called by the Jamaat backed Islami Chhatra Shibir to press its 9-point demand including withdrawal of police from the campus. All scheduled examinations, however, were held. The Chhatra Shibir held a rally in front of the main gate of the university at noon which was addressed by the Shibir leaders.

**Kurds kill 11 Turkish troops**  
 ANKARA, June 21: Kurdish rebels attacked a Turkish military post on the Iraqi border at dawn Wednesday and killed 11 soldiers, the Anatolia news agency reported. Twenty-one Kurdish guerrillas were also killed in the fighting near the town of Cukurca, Anatolia said, reports AP.

## Japanese cult member hijacks plane

HAKODATE, Japan, June 21: Japan's doomsday-cult saga took another dramatic turn Wednesday when a self-proclaimed sect disciple, brandishing an ice pick, commandeered a domestic plane Wednesday and demanded the release of jailed guru Shoko Asahara, reports AP.

The All Nippon Airways jumbo jet with 365 people aboard — including a 15-member flight crew, the hijacker and other accomplices — landed at Hakodate in northern Japan and was sitting on the tarmac. Riot police sealed off the airport's perimeter.

Police said the plane would not be allowed to take off unless the hijacker released all passengers and allowed medical treatment for any crew members needing it.

But the hijacker, speaking through the plane's pilot, rejected the conditions and demanded to be flown back to Tokyo. He warned police and soldiers to stay away, spurned an offer from airport authorities to bring food aboard for passengers, and renewed demands for Asahara's release.

Asahara, 40, and other top cult leaders have been charged with murder and attempted murder in the March 20 subway nerve-gassing, which killed 12 people and injured 5,500 others.

## 8 killed in Pabna road accidents

From Our Correspondent.  
 PABNA, June 21: Eight persons were killed in two separate road accidents here today.

The accidents occurred at Bohalbari near Bongram under Santhia thana and Chinakhara under Sujanagar thana.

Six of the eight victims died this afternoon when a Pabna-bound coach from Dhaka met an accident while giving side to a truck coming from opposite direction near Bohalbari.

Two others — Azmal, 27, and Abdul Gafur, 24, died on the spot when a truck overturned at Chinakhara, about 25 miles off Pabna town at noon today.

## Heart instt can perform 30 bypass operations a month

The National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) has successfully performed eight bypass heart operations and hopes to continue this on a regular basis from now on.


Stating this at a press conference at the institute premises yesterday, Director of the NICVD, Prof. M. Akhtaruzzaman said that with its present strength of experts, the NICVD would be able to perform 25 to 30 bypass operations a month.

The cost of such an operation would not cross the Tk 50 thousand since patients are to pay for only disposable items required for the operation, the director said.

Prof. S.R. Khan, chief surgeon of the unit, said that the team was trained by foreign medical teams at the Institute and the NICVD now possesses all the equipment required for the purpose.


"This has been a matter of shame for us that despite having this institute in the country so many people go abroad spending millions of taka in foreign currency for bypass operation. Now this can be done here," the director said.

In response to a question on what has been done to upgrade the quality of services, especially regarding the time consuming process of treating an emergency patient, the director said that the record of the institute in this respect was not so bad compared to that in other centres.



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