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#### STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	798.21 (+6.43%)
Market capital Tk	45.19 billion
Transactions in volume	191555
Transactions in value Tk	17.48 million

#### Metropolitan

#### Dhaka Day by Day



Dhaka Day by Day by Night Page 3

#### NEWS BRIEFS

#### PM donates 58 buses, JS told

The Prime Minister donated 53 buses and five mini buses to different educational institutions of the country from fiscal 1991-92 till now, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. An amount of Taka 10,67,22,500 was spent on this account, he said in reply to a question from Treasury Bench member Begum KJ Hamida Khanam, reports BSS.

#### Human trafficker arrested

CHITTAGONG, June 22: Police today arrested an alleged human trafficker from a Dhaka-bound bus at Sitakunda and rescued nine people from his clutch. Acting on a tip-off police halted the bus at about 12 noon and nabbed the trafficker, Lal Mohan Das, reports UNB.

#### 4 die in Magura bus collision

MAGURA, June 22: Four people were killed and 20 others injured when two buses collided at Parnandual on the Magura-Kamarkhali highway today. Witnesses said the accident occurred when Kushtia-bound "Kanta Paribahan" and Dhaka-bound "Concord Paribahan" collided at about 11 am killing three people on the spot. One Amirul Islam, 40, succumbed to his injuries at Magura Sadar Hospital. Of the injured, five were admitted to the Sadar Hospital in critical condition, reports UNB.

#### Dacoity at Ctg jewellery shop

CHITTAGONG, June 22: Armed dacoits stormed into a jewellers shop at Hazari Lane, a busy commercial area in the port city, and looted gold ornaments at about 1 pm today. Police said about six armed dacoits stormed into the shop and looted ornaments worth about Tk 10 lakh and cash Tk 30,000. In another incident, valuables worth about Tk 1.34 lakh were looted from Sultanpur village in Rauzan thana on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

## BNP parliamentary party meets PM still ready to quit 30 days ahead of polls

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday reiterated her earlier offer of resigning 30 days ahead of the next general elections.

"Our proposal is on the table and we are still sticking to it," Begum Zia told newsmen when asked whether she was going to make any fresh offer to the opposition parties.

"We gave our proposal and still stand by it," she said when asked if the ruling party would accept the Opposition demand for a neutral caretaker government.

She was talking to newsmen at the end of the BNP parliamentary party meeting at the Cabinet room of the Jatiya Sangsad.

Begum Zia declined to elaborate further and assigned Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain to brief the newsmen about the BNPPP meeting.

In the meeting, Begum Zia directed her party colleagues to refrain from making any comment which might create controversy.

She also cautioned that punitive measures would be taken against those violating party discipline.

While hinting that all the existing MPs may not eventually get the party nomination in the coming elections she, however, urged the rank and file of the party to work unitedly for its nominees.

"Anti-party activities would not be tolerated," Begum Zia was quoted as saying by an MP who attended the one and a half hour-long meeting.

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## Leave for absentee MPs Speaker rejects Huda's application

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali yesterday rejected the application of BNP member Nazmul Huda seeking 10 days leave of absence on behalf of 149 opposition members who are boycotting Parliament sittings, reports BSS.

Giving his ruling, the Speaker said the application of Huda submitted on June 19 is not in conformity with or fulfil the conditions related to Rule 179 (3) of the Rules of Procedure.

Rule 179(3) of the rules of procedure said, "When a member is prevented or incapacitated from making such application, leave of the House may be granted on a motion moved by any other member provided that a member who has been granted leave under these rules by the House may attend the session of the House before the expiry of such leave with intimation to the Speaker, and if he does so, the unexpired portion of the leave from the date of his resuming attendance shall lapse."

The Speaker said three conditions should be fulfilled if a member wanted to move a motion on behalf of an absentee member seeking leave of the House for his absence.

The conditions are (1) if the concerned absentee member is prevented from making such application for leave of the House, (2) if he is incapacitated to apply and (3) in case of an application by a member other than the concerned absentee member for leave of the House for his absence, it should be brought in the form of a motion.

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## Indian team due today: Talks tomorrow Dhaka will press Delhi for 34500 cusecs of water

By M Anwarul Haq

Sunday afternoon.

Salman's visit was earlier due to take place last month but only last week the revised date of his arrival was intimated by New Delhi.

Bangladesh and India had been going on without any water-sharing agreement after the expiry of a treaty in 1981. Under that agreement signed in 1977, Bangladesh was given 34,500 cusecs of water. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was later signed in 1982, which expired in 1989.

The normal flow of Ganges waters at the Hardinge Bridge during the lean period was 74,000 cusecs before the commissioning of the Farakka Barrage by India in 1975, test running of which was allowed by Bangladesh in good faith.

Officials concerned said that Dhaka was now keenly awaiting a positive response from the Indian side on the Ganges water-sharing issue including conclusion of a definitive agreement since international law does not allow the diversion or unilateral withdrawal of water affecting a lower riparian country.

The water issue was raised by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia during her visit to New Delhi in connection with the SAARC summit. Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in bilateral discussions with the Bangladesh Prime Minister agreed to settle the water issue and also agreed to hold water talks between the two countries at the level of foreign secretary. It was also agreed that the secretaries would report back to their respective heads of government for finalising a settlement.

Mentionably, Narasimha Rao's go ahead for holding the water talks came belatedly. Earlier, during Begum Zia's visit to New Delhi in May, 1992, Rao had given a tacit assurance to resolve the vexed issue at the earliest. He had then assured of solving the water problem which was causing immense hardship to the people of the country, besides causing desertification and environmental problems. Rao had also spoken of coming to Dhaka to discuss the issue bilaterally. The visit, however, did not take place.

Bangladesh had in the meantime sought international help.

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Two brothers sit marooned on the roof of their thatched house after flash floods inundated village Nijpat under Jaintapur thana of Sylhet district. — Star photo by Iqbal Siddique

## Major rivers begin to fall: 6 more die Floods grip 6 more dists

By Staff Correspondent

Floods have so far gripped 21 districts in the country, claiming 71 lives including six yesterday and affecting over 30 lakh people, according to reports received in the capital last night.

The overall flood situation in many of the affected districts, however, started improving with fall in water levels of the major rivers and consequent recession of waters from the inundated areas.

The situation in the worst-hit Sylhet, Sunamganj and Moulvibazar districts further improved yesterday as water levels of the major rivers there continued to fall.

According to the Flood Information Centre in Dhaka, the Brahmaputra and the Ganges further declined in the upstream while all rivers in the Meghna and south eastern hill basins showed a downward trend.

But the flood situation in Gaibandha and Sirajganj districts deteriorated yesterday with fresh areas inundated by hilly waters flowing down from the upstream and rain waters.

In Gaibandha, Sarkarpara area of the district town, parts of Fulchhari thana and two unions of Saghata thana of the district were inundated yesterday while Khashjani Mouza of Kamarjani union and Karimerchar under Hollarchar union of the sadar thana continued to remain under floor waters. Erosion by rivers in the Sadar thana has intensified. The TNO's office and its adjoining buildings are about to be eroded by the Brahmaputra, officials said.

In the district, floods have washed away parts of three embankments — Gaibandha Town Protection Embankment, Lalchamor Flood Control Embankment at Sundariganj and the Flood Control Embankment of Fulchhari thana — leaving thousands of people marooned and damaging crops on 2,526 hectares of land, they added. The affected peoples did not get relief materials till yesterday.

In Sirajganj, six persons were reportedly missing since a Kazipur-bound boat capsized in the Jamuna during heavy rainfall yesterday. Four of the victims were identified as Nur Box (45), Zaker Mandol (40), Babu (21) and Shushil (47).

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## BNP won't let country return to one-party rule: PM

SAVAR, June 22: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today cautioned the people against the Opposition's motive and said BNP would not allow anyone to kill democracy and revert to one-party rule, reports UNB.

In an oblique reference to Awami League, she said the party had killed democracy through introduction of BKSAL and now does not go to Parliament as there is no scope for restoring their one-party rule.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting at Savar College ground in the afternoon, Begum Zia said, "The democratic environment prevailing in the country now had never been seen before."

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## 'Condition of Bashanti still unchanged'

CHIEMARI (Kurigram), June 22: Sheikh Hasina today said despite lofty promises, post-75 regimes failed to bring about change in the lot of poor and deprived people, reports UNB.

"The condition of an unseen, unknown Bashanti cannot be changed by shedding bloods of Bangabandhu family," she told a public meeting at the Chilmari High School ground after visiting Bashanti, a media legend of 1974.

The much-talked-about poor woman who was photographed as clothed in a fishing net in 1974 is now undergoing treatment in the local thana health complex.

The Awami League chief alleged that the anti-liberation force took the photograph of Bashanti by wrapping her with only a fishing net to create a plot to kill Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

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## Police, BDR raid RU halls: 42 arrested

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 22: Police and BDR arrested 42 persons during a raid on the Rajshahi University campus last night.

Some 1500 police and BDR personnel led by the BDR Sector Commander, Col Sheikh Abdur Rahman and the Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Motabber Hossain raided all the 10 residential hostels, the residences of several teachers and university officials as well as students messes in nearby localities from soon after midnight till dawn in a bid to arrest terrorists and recover illegal arms.

However, since information about the impending raid reached the campus, many people left the area. It is suspected that the illegal weapons were removed from the campus well before the police-BDR raid.

Of the 42 arrested persons, 22 were sent to the court today. They include university Syndicate member and lamaat city secretary Tasnim Alam. He was arrested on suspicion, from a teacher's house.

The arrest of the Jamaat leader has angered the party, which at a rally this evening, has called for a day-long hartal in the divisional town on Saturday.

## Major steps down as party chief

LONDON, June 22: Daring his right-wing critics to "put up or shut up," Prime Minister John Major resigned as Conservative Party leader Thursday to force an early leadership election, reports AP.

Despite his record low standing in opinion polls, Major said he would seek re-election and expected to win. If he didn't, he said he would step down as Prime Minister.

No date for the election was announced, and it was unclear whether anyone would step forward to battle Major.

The announcement by Major, 52, followed increasing opposition and insults from right-wing rebels within the party opposed to Britain's closer integration with the European Union.

Recently Major also endured fresh sniping from Margaret Thatcher, the leader he replaced five years ago.

For the past three years, Major said, "There have been repeated threats of a leadership election. In each year, they turned out to be phony threats."

"Now the same thing is happening again in 1995. It is in no one's interest that this continues until November. It undermines the government, and damages the Conservative Party."

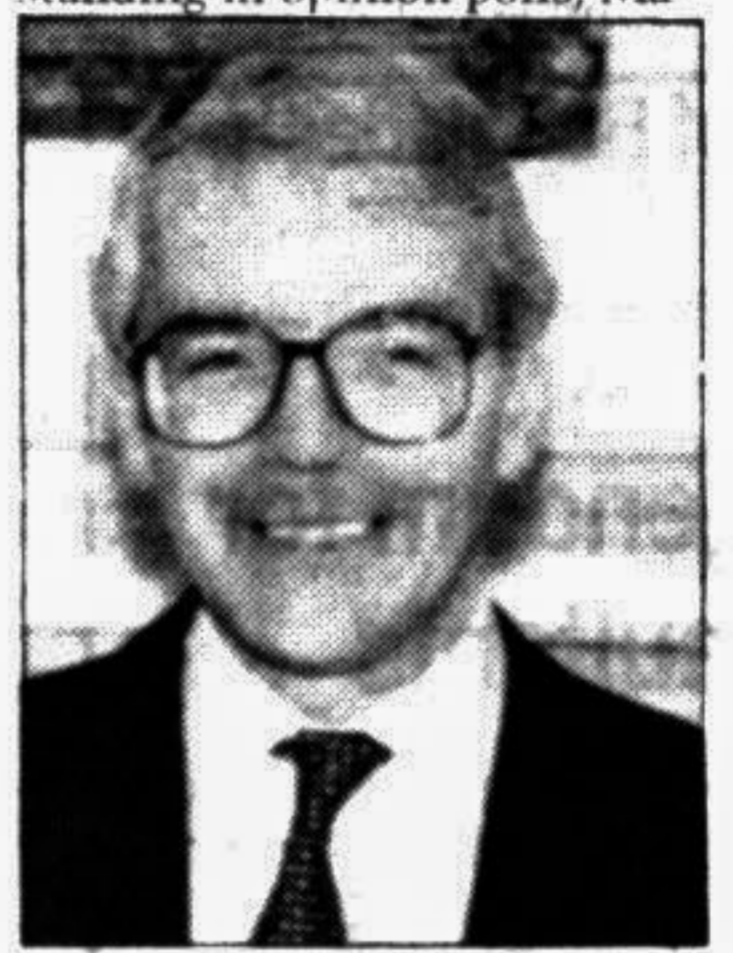
"I am not prepared to see the party I care for laid out on the rack like this any longer."

Speaking at a news conference in the garden of his official residence at No. 10 Downing Street, Major said he was unwilling to endure months of speculation about a possible challenge in November, when party rules provide for an election.

Major walked away after reading his statement, and took no questions.

The Conservative Party has governed Britain since 1979, when Thatcher won the election.

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John Major

## Talks on Rohingya repatriation next week

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, June 22: The 18th meeting between Bangladesh and Myanmar on the repatriation of Rohingya refugees is expected to be held in Yangon between June 28 and 30.

According to official sources, Bangladesh will seek clearance for the repatriation of 42,000 Rohingyas.

An eight member delegation headed by Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Md Shaiful Islam will go to Yangon on June 28. The 10-member delegation of Myanmar will be headed by the Director General of Manpower and Immigration Department U Maung Aung. No such meeting has been held during the last ten months.

Meanwhile, 174 members of 34 Rohingya families returned to Myanmar today.

With this, the number of Rohingyas so far repatriated stands at 192,467 while 58,410 more are awaiting for repatriation.

## Garments worker beaten to death

By DMCH Correspondent

A garments worker was beaten to death allegedly by another worker in the city yesterday.

Zakir Hossain, 19, a machine operator of the Sandwip Garments at Tejgaon, succumbed to his injuries while being taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Tejgaon police arrested Alamgir, 20, in connection with the murder at about 8:30 am.

## Hartal observed in Meherpur

MEHERPUR, June 22: A half-day hartal was observed in the district today demanding withdrawal of the district Police Superintendent, reports UNB.

An All Party Alliance called the hartal to press home their demand for the withdrawal of Police Super Kazi Muzibur Rahman, blaming him for deteriorating law and order situation in the district.

During hartal hours Awami League leader Prof Abdul Mannan was insulted by a police Sub-Inspector. Police also beat up an Awami League activist in front of the local

## Japanese police storm plane, arrest hijacker

TOKYO, June 22: A team of more than 20 riot police stormed a hijacked All Nippon Airways jumbo jet early this morning and successfully overpowered the hijacker in only three minutes, news reports said, says AFP.

The riot police, some apparently wearing light blue ANA uniforms, entered the plane before dawn through three doors after Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama gave the final go ahead for the plane at 3 am today (1800 GMT Wednesday), Jiji press said.

It took them about three minutes to overpower the men who were slightly injured along with a policeman during a brief struggle, Jiji said.

After his capture, the hijacker was taken to a hospital.

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## US bill to cut legal immigration by 30pc

WASHINGTON, June 22: The chairman of the House immigration subcommittee announced legislation Wednesday to cut legal immigration by 30 per cent and crack down on illegal entrants by fortifying the southern borders with increased patrols and "impenetrable" fences, reports AP.

It was the opening shot of what promises to be a contentious debate on responding to public anxiety over illegal immigration and overhauling the nation's 30-year-old system for prioritising legal immigrants.

"What's in the best interests of the American worker and the American economy is what drives us," said chairman Lamar Smith, a Texas Republican, in announcing the bill, which is expected to be formally introduced with 11 co-sponsors today.

The legislation would set and annual ceiling of 330,000 family-sponsored immigrants and eliminate visa eligibility for the brothers, sisters and adult children of citizens. It would also cap employment-based immigration at 135,000 and refugees and asylum-seekers would be limited to 70,000.

Those numbers are down from an total of about 830,000 legal entrants under current law.

Smith's bill would increase the number of border patrol agents by 5,000 over 10 years and increase by 500 the number of federal agents enforcing laws against the hiring of illegal immigrants.

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Japanese security officers in Hakodate storm the All Nippon Airways plane hijacked by a suspected Aum Supreme Truth doomsday cult member in a pre-dawn operation yesterday. All passengers and crew were freed. — AFP photo