

**Inside Today**

**Article**  
**Boosting Investment Requires More than Image-building**  
 Column : Crosscurrents by C A F Dowlah Page 4

**Focus**  
**Things Finance Minister left unsaid in his budget speech; Politicians stall democracy trickle down; and East and West are one**  
 Page 5

**International**  
**Mubarak vows to stamp out terrorism**  
**MQM threatens weekend strikes**  
 Page 8

**Business**  
**Introduction of digital phones at thana level likely soon, minister tells JS**  
**US-Japan auto dispute may lead to trade war**  
 Pages 6, 7

**Metropolitan**  
**Dhaka Day by Day**

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Agri ministry now under Mannan**  
 Food Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan was yesterday given the charge of Agriculture Ministry in addition to his current portfolio. An official announcement said Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia entrusted Mannan with the additional charge which would take immediate effect. Agriculture was under the stewardship of Maj. General (ret) Majid-ul-Haq, in addition to his Water Resources portfolio, reports UNB.

**DU budget today**  
 The annual budget of the Dhaka University will be placed in its Senate session, beginning today. Dhaka University Treasurer Prof M Shamsul Haque will place the budget in the session at 4 pm. Vice Chancellor Prof Emdaduddin Ahmed will preside over the session. It will also elect a registered graduate representative, an eminent educationist and a prominent citizen as the university Syndicate members, reports UNB.

**48-hr transport strike**  
 From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, June 27: The South Bengal Road Transport Workers' and Owners' Association has called a 48-hour transport strike from tomorrow in the southern region of the country. The strike call was given in demand of the release of a driver and withdrawal of a BDR check post from Parnandua in Magura.

**Kidnapped girl rescued in Ctg**  
 CHITTAGONG, June 27: A special team of the Kotwali police rescued one kidnapped girl Rupna Chowdhury from a slum near Customs House here today. According to police, Rupna Chowdhury, 14, a garments worker, was kidnapped by three persons from Anderkilla on Saturday last. One Jasimuddin was arrested, reports BSS.

## Son ousts Emir of Qatar in coup



Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani addressing the cabinet after the takeover yesterday. — AFP photo

DUBAI, June 27: The Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani was ousted today by his son and Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, who was declared ruler of the small Gulf oil state, report Reuter, AP.

A terse announcement on the official Qatar news agency said Sheikh Hamad, 47, had "taken over the reins of power with the support of the ruling (Al-Thani) family and the Qatari people."

The announcement gave no reason for the removal of the Emir, who enjoyed absolute power in the state of about 500,000 people.

He was in Geneva after official visits last week to Egypt and Tunisia.

The deposed Emir said in Geneva today he was still the legitimate ruler of his country and would return 'whatever the cost.'

In a statement handed to reporters there he said: "The situation is unacceptable given that the legitimate power is still in my hands and in the hands of all the state of Qatar, the Royal Family, the people and the army."

Hamad's seizure of power was largely symbolic. He has effectively been running the oil-exporting country for more than a decade.

The nation has a long history of power struggles within the ruling family, going back to its days as a British protectorate before 1971. Hamad's father, Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani, seized power from his cousin Ahmed in 1972.

Arab diplomats said the father and son fell out over how strong a stance Qatar should



The JP activists hurled bomb at police at the Topkhana Road in the city during hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

## Stray incidents mark JP hartal : 154 held

**By Staff Correspondent**

Sporadic bomb explosions and stray incidents marked yesterday's eight-hour hartal in the capital, called by the Jatiya Party to protest the "implication" of its jailed chairman H M Ershad in the Gen Manzur murder case.

Damaging of vehicles and chases and counter-chases between police and pro-hartal activists were also reported from different parts of the city during the hartal hours between 6:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Police arrested 154 people when JP activists, boosted by Monday's High Court verdict acquitting Ershad from a charge of possessing illegal arms, used home-made bombs and cocktails to create a reign of terror by way of enforcing the hartal.

More than 50 people including four policemen were injured during skirmishes at different places including Mirpur, Golapbagh, Purana Paltan, Syedabad, Farmgate, Mahakhal, Tejgaon and Azimpur where the pickets were quite active.

Of the injured, 18 were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They received shrapnel and splinter injuries from explosions at Mirpur, Gulistan, Demra, Tejgaon, Elephant Road, Kaptan Bazar, Syedabad and Gandaria, hospital sources said.

Normal city life was hampered with almost no motorised vehicles venturing out on the streets. But rickshaws plied as usual and a small number of state-owned BRTC buses were seen on the streets after about 11:00 am.

The capital remained cut off from other districts with no inter-district buses operating during the hartal hours. However, rail communication was normal while some Biman flights, both domestic and international, were delayed, sources said.

Shopping centres, educational institutions and private business houses remained closed. Transactions at city banks, however, were done behind shutters.

Hundreds of passengers who arrived in the morning remained stranded at the Zia International Airport, Kamalapur railway station, Sadarghat launch terminal and the inter-district bus terminals.

Helmeted police, para-military BDR personnel and Ansars were deployed at different points to maintain law

## JP demonstration tomorrow, 'Sukrana Dibash' on Friday

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Jatiya Party will stage countrywide demonstrations tomorrow as part of its on-going agitation programmes to protest the "government's move to implicate Ershad in the Manzur murder case" and to press for his release. The JP will also observe 'Sukrana Dibash' on Friday through special prayers for acquittal of Ershad in the arms case.

Announcing the programmes at a post-hartal party rally at the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday, JP acting Chairman Mizan Choudhury said they welcome trial of any killer but "any conspiracy to involve political opponents in the Manzur murder case by the ruling BNP will not be tolerated."

The rally was planned at the South Gate of Baitul Mukarram but was shifted to nearby Bangabandhu Avenue after police intervention.

The JP leader said the BNP government, instead of initiating trial of Zia's killers are engaged in trying the killers of Manzur.

Expressing gratitude at Ershad's acquittal the JP acting chief said, "It's an example of rule of law."

## Govt misusing relief fund, says Hasina

**By Asiuazzaman**

SYLHET, June 27: Awami League president Sheikh Hasina today blasted the government for not distributing relief materials properly in the flood affected areas, reports UNB.

"The government is misappropriating the relief fund ... Ministers and MPs have been given Tk 25 lakh for distribution among the disaster-hit people, but they have misused the money," she told a public meeting at the Companiganj Thana Parishad ground.

Hasina visited the remote areas of Sylhet and Sunamganj districts and inquired about the condition of the flood affected people who complained that scarcity of relief materials had added to their sufferings.

She addressed two public meetings at Companiganj in Sylhet and Chhatak and several spontaneous gatherings in the flood-hit areas.

## Ruling on absentee MPs soon BNP stalwarts want to go by Constitution

**By Asiuazzaman**

Ruling party stalwarts are against staggering the issue of 90 days' continuous absence from the House by the Opposition MPs, believing it would be wiser to go by the Constitution.

In a meeting with party chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday, senior cabinet members were said to be agreed that any extra-constitutional measure may be challenged in court which, in turn, may affect the entire politics including the next general elections.

"Should a court verdict go against the BNP's decision the image of the party would suffer," one minister told the meeting. "The Speaker should go by the Constitution."

According to the Constitution, a member of Parliament automatically loses his seat for remaining absent for 90 consecutive sittings of the Jatiya Sangsad without leave of absence from the House.

The Opposition MPs who have been boycotting JS sessions since March 1 last year have now stayed away for more than the permissible limit, which was crossed on June 19, the second day of the current budget session of the Fifth Parliament.

A BNP leader who attended the meeting, held at the PM's Tejgaon office, said that a proposal suggesting the President seek an interpretation of the exact legal position on the issue from the Supreme Court was also discussed. But most of the senior ministers felt that it would not be proper for the Prime Minister to advise the President to seek the help of the highest court.

Under Article 106 of the

## Col Kamaluddin formally charged in Manzur murder case

**From Staff Correspondent**

CHITTAGONG, June 27: Another retired army officer, Lt Col Kamaluddin Ahmed, who was arrested by the CID police in Dhaka on June 18, was today formally charged with complicity in the 1981 murder of Major General Abul Manzur.

According to court sources, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Chittagong, today issued warrants to produce Lt Col (ret'd) Kamaluddin Ahmed before him on July 1 next.

The production and custody warrants, ordering the Dhaka Central Jail authorities to escort him to Chittagong, have already been despatched, court sources added.

The warrants were issued following a prayer today by the investigating officer of the case requesting CMM S M Matiur Rahman to show Kamaluddin Ahmed before him on July 1 next.

## Speaker risking his credibility

**By Mahfuz Anam**

The Honourable Speaker has no reason to delay informing the House about the fact that all the opposition MPs have crossed the 90-day limit on absenting themselves from the Parliament. Our Constitution, in Article 67(1)(a) clearly states that continuous days of absence by a member, without leave of the Parliament, will lead to automatic cancellation of his or her seat. Article 178 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament unambiguously enjoins the Speaker to inform the House about it. Leaving aside the circumstances that preceded this event — and some may say, because of them — the Speaker should consider it to be his foremost duty, to inform the House immediately.

Yet he seems to be in no hurry to proceed in this matter. Why? We are being forced to think that it is because of political expediency. More this impression is getting currency, more is the Speaker losing credibility. His exalted status is slowly but surely being shorn of its position of being above partisan politics. This, we think, is causing a serious damage to the image of the office of the Speaker. His position as the ultimate upholder of ethics and fair-play now stands substantially damaged.

When the Constitution is very clear, and when he knows that the Rules of Procedure does not give any scope for interpretation — as, some may say, the resignation

## 2 JCD activists killed in Ctg, Natore

**From Our Correspondent**

NATORE, June 27: A local leader of the Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was killed here Monday night reportedly by his rivals in the organisation.

Alimul Islam Zia Babu, 28, a former pro-VP of the students union of the NS Government College, was attacked at Mirpara while returning home at 9 pm.

He succumbed to his injuries at the Rajshahi Medical College hospital.

A case was registered with Sadar thana.

BSS from Chittagong adds: Mohammad Jasimuddin (Mak-sud), an activist of the Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen at his village home Charandeep under

## Trade delegation passes busy day in Stockholm

The Bangladesh Trade and Investment delegation headed by FBCCI president Salman F Rahman had a busy day on Monday in Stockholm on the first leg of their visit to West European countries and North America, reports UNB.

On arrival in the Swedish capital, the delegation was met and briefed by Bangladesh Ambassador Brig (Ret'd) Gyasuddin A Chowdhury in his office, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

In the morning, a conference was arranged at the

## Elimination of child labour Revised MOU to be signed Tuesday

**By Staff Correspondent**

The formal signing of the revised memorandum of understanding (MOU) to eliminate child labour from the country's garment sector is scheduled for Tuesday next.

According to official sources, signatories to the proposed MOU include the Unicef, the ILO and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BGMEA).

The Government and the US embassy would remain as observers.

However, an inter-ministerial meeting earlier this week reviewed the draft and decided to seek some minor amendments. The Government is willing to cooperate in the implementation of the MOU provisions, but is reluctant to be "directly" involved in the process, the sources noted.

Last week, the BGMEA executive committee had approved the revised draft of the MOU, which incorporates provisions for rehabilitating the retrenched children and for setting up an independent monitoring system to verify

## Court restrains 7 RU teachers

**From RU Correspondent**

RAJSHAHI, June 27: A court here today issued an injunction suspending all administrative work by seven administrators of the Rajshahi University until further order. It also suspended their remunerations.

The injunction order was issued by the court of the Sub-Judge, Rajshahi.

Two advocates — Abdus Salam and Siraj Showkat Salehin — on June 25 filed a petition with the court of Sub-Judge Anisur Rahman Khan accusing 12 persons including the university's Vice-Chancellor and Registrar of running the administration in violation of proper rules.

All seven persons restrained by the injunction are teachers of the university who used to discharge various administrative duties in addition to their jobs.

## High Court stays Taslima's trial

A High Court bench yesterday stayed the trial of author Taslima Nasrin and asked the government to explain why the blasphemy charge against her should not be dismissed, reports UNB.

The division bench comprising Justice M Mozammel Huq and Justice Nurul Islam directed the Home Ministry to send its reply by July 5 when a hearing of the case is scheduled.

Earlier, Additional Chief

## Four die after drinking liquor

MYMENSINGH, June 27: Four people died and another one fell sick seriously after taking country-made liquor in a hospital compound early today reports UNB.

Hospital and police sources said two died at Surya Kanta (SK) Hospital and another two at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

Two of them were identified as local businessmen Kamal, 35, and Khokon, 30, and two others fourth class employees of MMCH — Ran-

## Growth in industrial sector up, agriculture down

**By Staff Correspondent**

Rahman in the preface of the review said, "This Review is the first document of the government's policy-reform activities of the last few years. Although it is brief, the review states the latest economic data and gives an appropriate analysis."

The review said industries sector achieved the highest growth of 10 per cent during 1994-95 fiscal, on against 3.4 per cent in 90-91, according to the Bangladesh Economic Review, June 1995.

The Review was released yesterday by the Ministry of Finance. The Review replaces the Economic Survey and will be published every year from now on.

Finance Minister M Saifur

In line with the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, most sectors of the economy marked upward growth in the last four years. However, there were some negative trends in agriculture, mineral resources and public utility services.

The GDP growth rate is expected to reach 5.1 per cent during the outgoing 1994-95 fiscal, on against 3.4 per cent in 90-91, according to the Bangladesh Economic Review, June 1995.

The Review was released yesterday by the Ministry of Finance. The Review replaces the Economic Survey and will be published every year from now on.

Finance Minister M Saifur



Hunger striking Palestinian women staging a sit-in in front of the Red Cross office in Gaza yesterday holding pictures of their sons detained in Israeli prisons. — AFP/UNB photo

**Wimbledon Result HIGHLIGHTS**  
 Courtesy  
 Royal Dutch Airlines

Men's singles (1st round):  
 Jacco Eltingh (Holland) def Michael Stich (Germany)  
 Andre Agassi (USA) def Andrew Painter (Australia)  
 Stefan Edberg (Sweden) def Oscar Martinez (Spain)

Women's singles (1st round):  
 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain) def Katarina Stenikova (Slovakia)  
 Anke Huber (Germany) def Tina Krizan (Slovenia).