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- NEWS BRIEFS**
President assents to one more Bill
 President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday gave his assent to the Appropriation (Supplementary) Bill, 1995 passed by the Jatiya Sangsad recently, reports BSS.
- Import policy to remain in force**
 The Import Policy Order 1993-95, which has been effective since November 1, 1993, will remain in force till the announcement of the next import policy order, an official handout said yesterday, reports BSS.
- 43 detained at ZIA**
 Police have detained 43 people from the Zia International Airport when they tried to leave the country showing illegal papers. Police in their special drive arrested the accused during the last three days, said a press release yesterday, reports UNB.
- 11 more students held in Ctg**
 From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, June 29: Police today arrested 11 more students from the Sadarghat Islamiya College in connection with yesterday's gun battle between two rival factions of the Chhatra League.
 A revolver was also recovered from them. Earlier, police arrested seven students. One person was killed and ten others were injured in the gun battle in front of the City College and the Islamiya College.

Saifur's winding up speech in JS Budgets are political instruments

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday defended the proposed budget, which has been termed a pro-election budget, saying that every budget is an important political instrument of a country and its political implications cannot be ignored.

"It is a sound political document, a document of social harmony. So, its implication cannot be ignored," the Finance Minister said while winding up the discussion on the budget for the 1995-96 fiscal year.

Refuting the criticism of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina that the budget was drafted with an eye on influencing the voters, he said "If the people are influenced by a sound and pragmatic budget we have nothing to do."

The Finance Minister assured that the BNP government under Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, if returned to power in the next general elections, would successfully implement each and every aspect of the budget.

"But I cannot guarantee anything if it falls into inept hands as in 1972. God forbid, that will not happen," Rahman said in the presence of Leader of the House Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Pointing out facts and figures, he said that the BNP government had never hoaxed the people.

"What I have done, I have done professionally. I never did, and will never do, anything for mere expediency," Rahman said in his one-and-a-half-hour long speech amid cheers from his party MPs.

The Finance Minister said during the last four years the BNP government did not impose new taxes, rather it reduced tariffs from time to time in different sectors.

As many as 55 members took part in the discussion on the budget over four days.

Saifur Rahman said that during the autocratic regime

Budget passed

The national budget for the next financial year (1995-96) with the appropriation of demands for grants for various ministries out of consolidated fund was passed by the Jatiya Sangsad at midnight last night, reports BSS.

After passage of 131 demands for grants in two hours the Appropriation (vote on account) Bill, 1995 granting Taka 32060 crore 77 lakh 31 thousand, out of consolidated fund for the 1995-96 financial year to meet expenditure of various ministries was adopted by the House after seven and a half hours of sitting last night.

The Bill was introduced by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman after the House had passed by voice vote an allocation of Taka 26814 crore 96 lakh 18 thousand to meet expenditure of various ministries from tomorrow.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, adjourned the House at 12 midnight.

Real wages in major sectors decline during '71-90 Unemployment to reach 30 pc by 2000 unless growth picks up

By Staff Correspondent

The GDP growth rate does not pick up the wages would continue to fall, it warns.

"Much higher growth rates are needed to expand employment opportunities fast enough to reduce underemployment and push wages higher."

The report, a supplementary of the "World Bank Development Report 1995: Workers in an Integrating World," was released worldwide yesterday. The report looks into the possible impact on the workers of the global changes towards an increasingly market-driven economy.

In a pre-release press briefing at the Bank's resident mission on Tuesday last, Hafez Ghanem, one of the core members of the team which prepared the report, said that

the dramatic changes in which goods, services, ideas and people are moving around much faster in an integrated world, have raised fears among workers in both the developing and industrial countries.

The briefing was also attended by Pierre Landell Mills, chief of the Bank's resident mission.

The report explores how the changes affect workers and how government's should deal with those fears. But Ghanem, a Bank economist whose last posting was in Dhaka, added that the workers should not be scared. "Globalization provides a great deal of opportunities and workers all over can benefit from it."

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The Visually Impaired Women's Forum and Helen Keller International, Bangladesh jointly organized a cultural function at the Engineers' Institution in the City yesterday marking the 115th birth anniversary of Helen Keller. — Star photo

Manzur murder case Ershad may be produced in Ctg court tomorrow

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, June 29: Former president H M Ershad, who was chargesheeted as the principal accused in the 1981 murder of army Major General Abul Manzur, is likely to be brought to Chittagong from Dhaka Central Jail for being produced in the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), here on July 1.

According to official sources, all steps have been taken to escort Ershad to the port city.

About 150 riot police will be deployed to ensure security when he is produced in the court for the hearing of the sensational Manzur murder case.

After being brought from Dhaka in the morning of July 1, Ershad is supposed to be kept in Chittagong jail for some time and then taken to the court under heavy security.

He will be escorted back to Dhaka Central Jail after the hearing, the sources said.

The four other chargesheeted accused all retired army officers — Major Gen Abdul Latif, Col Shamsur Rahman, Lt Col Kamal Uddin Ahmed and Major Emdadul Huq, are also likely to be produced in the CMM's court on the same day, court sources said.

The CMM has already issued a summons to Ershad.

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Majidul himself was ignorant of PM's decision

By Staff Correspondent

Senior minister M Majidul-Huq's failure to attend the inaugural convocation of the Institute of Postgraduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) become the proverbial "last straw on the camel's back" for his losing the Agriculture portfolio, ruling party insiders said yesterday.

Majidul-Huq, who ranked third in the cabinet, behind the Prime Minister and Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, failed to turn up for the programme at Gazipur on June 24, which the PM took as a direct affront to her. Besides, the function was rather poorly managed, the source said.

The source, close to the Prime Minister, said that Majidul-Huq was ignorant of the PM's decision.

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Policies made in the name of poor ignore them

By Staff Correspondent

Although policies are professed to be made, including the formulation of budget, in the name of the poor, their opinions hardly find any reflection in the exercise.

"That is why the poor are also very much indifferent to these policies and most of them do not understand the budget," said Dr Atiur Rahman of Bangladesh Institute Development Studies (BIDS) in his paper titled "Poor men's Reflection on Budget: The Current Budget and Poverty Alleviation Process" at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar, organised by the Institute for Development Policy Analysis and Advocacy of Proshika, was held with its executive director Kazi Faruq Ahmed in the chair and participated by M Sayeduzzaman, former finance minister; Dr Mahbub Hossain of ITRI, Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star; Syed Ali Kabir, Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kari and two representatives of the poor.

"Budget means the price hike of essentials" slum dwellers were quoted by Dr Atiur as saying in reply to a question his research team asked to residents of Paribagh slum.

He also quoted Mamta Begum, 29, who said, "We live from hand to mouth. Where is the time to think about budget?"

Terming the current budget formulation a traditional exercise, the BIDS senior research fellow said, "It is clear that this budget is not pro-poor". Assuring capital flow towards the poor alone will not record poverty decline, but participation of the poor in the growth process can only ensure poverty reduction, he added.

Referring to the 'indifferent attitude' of the NGOs towards agriculture sector and agri-subsidy issue, Dr Atiur said, "Their silence in this regard is as amazing as painful." They did not look into other devices, apart from the subsidy, which could improve the situation in agriculture sector in general and the fate of the farmers in particular, he added.

"Publication of annual report is not enough to combat the sensitive issues like 'poverty selling' he said, adding "They (NGOs) need to spend additional time and labour in keeping their organisations more accountable and

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Biswas for strong role of media to empower women

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday underscored the need for strong role of the media and participation of all irrespective of men and women in developing the country, changing the lot of the people and empowering women, reports BSS.

He also emphasised the need for developing a congenial social and working environment in creating awareness of the women community.

President Biswas was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a workshop on "The Role of Media in Empowering Women" held at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

Organised by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs the inaugural session was also addressed by Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, UNDP Country Representative Ms Eimi Watanabe and Additional Secretary in-charge of the Women and Children Affairs Ministry M Matir Rahman.

State Minister of the Women and Children Affairs Ministry Mrs Sarwari Rahman presided over the function and joint Secretary of the Ministry Sitauddin Ahmed presented the keynote paper.

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How many people are unemployed in country?

By Staff Correspondent

How many unemployed people are there in the country now?

The accurate figure is not known even to Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali.

Replying to a question from ruling party MP Abdur Rouf Choudhury in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, the minister admitted there were differences of opinion on the correct figure.

He, however, told the House that as per the 1993 survey by the Bureau of Statistics, the number of jobless people was 1.12 crore.

The minister further informed Parliament that the government had taken various steps under different ministries to turn the unemployed population into human resource.

Elaborating, he said a large number of unemployed youths were being trained in 12 different trade courses at 11 technical training centres and one naval training centre under the Bureau of Manpower Training and Employment Centre.

To modernise the training system further, the minister said, the manpower bureau

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Sharif calls for nat'l govt to avert ML

ISLAMABAD, June 29: Pakistani Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif said today a national coalition government could end the violence wracking Karachi and avert any possible army intervention in Pakistani politics, reports Reuter.

"I do fear an intervention under these circumstances," Sharif told foreign reporters at a briefing.

More than 300 people have been killed this month.

Major, Redwood only candidates for leadership ballot

LONDON, June 29: Prime Minister John Major and right-wing former cabinet minister John Redwood were the only candidates when nominations for a leadership ballot in Britain's ruling Conservative Party closed today.

The announcement was made by Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of a group of Conservative members of parliament that is organising the leadership election. The internal ballot, triggered when Major dramatically resigned the post a week ago in a bid to reassert his battered authority, will take place next Tuesday.

alone in ethnic and political violence in the southern port of Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city and its commercial and industrial hub. Sharif said the removal of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was essential to resolve a deepening crisis in Pakistan, arguing that she would be replaced by a national government.

Pakistanis felt an "overwhelming sense of despair and demoralisation," mainly because of Karachi, and only a "non-Bhutto" prime minister could revive the national spirit, he said.

"You can call it a national government, or a one-party government or a coalition, but I think that it could bring about a solution in Karachi," he said.

"I would not support any intervention in the political system," he said, in a reference to Pakistan's history of frequent military interventions in politics.

"We must work to promote the democratic system and change should not come through any non-constitutional means."

Sharif said President Farooq Leghari, who has constitutional powers to dismiss elected governments, could play a role.

ALCWC meeting begins

A two-day meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) began yesterday afternoon at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue office in the city.

Chaired by AL president Sheikh Hasina, the meeting discussed the latest political and economic situation in the country.

A party press release issued last night said that the meeting also discussed the budget for fiscal 1995-96. In a resolution, it said that the budget was formulated to influence the voters in the coming elections.

The meeting was adjourned till 3:00 pm today.

Assistant Judge punished for contempt

A High Court bench yesterday found Ashok K Karmakar, Assistant Judge, Tangail, guilty of contempt of court, reports BSS.

The division bench comprising Justice A M M Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman, after rejecting an unconditional apology tendered by Karmakar, punished him by sentencing him till the rising of the court and imposing a fine of Taka 10,000.

The apologies tendered by Mahfuz Anam, Editor and A S Mahmud, printer and publisher of The Daily Star were, however, accepted and they were exonerated.

Ashok Karmakar wrote an

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Seoul department store collapse kills 34



Overview of collapsed Sampoong Department Store in Seoul yesterday where scores of rush-hour shoppers and staff are trapped under debris. At least 34 bodies have been recovered. — AFP photo

KL won't extend work permits for foreigners

KUALA LUMPUR, June 29: Malaysia is not extending temporary work permits for thousands of foreign workers who entered the country illegally, saying they were causing increasing social and security problems here, a report said today, reports AFP.

Permits for about 265,000 of foreign workers, given out during an amnesty drive in 1992, are due to expire tomorrow.

"Employers must repatriate their workers by Friday, otherwise they will be charged with harbouring the workers," Ahmad Bakhtiar Sulaiman, the operations director at the Home Ministry's task force on foreign workers, was reported saying by The Star.

Employers caught harbouring illegal workers after the deadline can be jailed up to two years and fined 10,000 ringgit (4,000 dollars) on conviction.

Employers of foreign labour lamented the move, saying it would further tighten the country's labour shortage. Foreign workers, both legal and illegal, are increasingly staffing petrol stations, construction sites and restaurants here.

"This will make the situation worse as there is already a shortage (of workers)," said Malaysian Muslim Restaurant Owners' Association President Jamarul Khan Kadir.

Jamarul said more than half the association's member restaurants were staffed by foreigners.

Industry officials said there were now more than 1.5 million foreign workers in the country, excluding those working illegally.

Wimbledon Result HIGHLIGHTS
 Courtesy

 Royal Dutch Airlines

Men's singles (3rd round):
 Dick Norman (Bel) def Stefan Edberg (Swe)
 Cedric Pioline (France) def Jim Courier (USA)
 Jeff Tarango (USA) def Andre Agassi (USA) def Pat McEnroe (USA)
 Boris Becker (Ger) def Jan Apell (Swe)

Women's singles (3rd round):
 Steffi Graf (Ger) def Amanda Coetzer (S Africa)
 Jana Novotna (Czech Rep) def Jo Durie (GBR)