The Midnight File

Fresh fighting in Afghanistan

Afghanistan today in an offensive aimed at capturing a strategic northern

supply route. Security Ministry officials said. Government troops had

advanced to within a few kilometres of the town of Yakavlang and were

fighting for control of the outlying areas, the sources said, speaking on

Shamsul Huq's writ against Rouf

condition of anonymity, reports AP.

From the President to a peon, ev-

The office of judges is in the ser-

vice of the Republic as they also hold

office, argued Barrister Amirul Islam

while making his final submission on

thority Justice Md Abdur Rouf is

holding the office of a judge in the

Convenor of the Coordination Coun-

cil for Lawyers Advocate Shamsul

Huq Chowdhury on June 11. A High

Court division bench comprising Jus-

tice Habibur Rahman Khan and Jus-

tice M M Rubul Amin issued rule on

Justice Rouf, the Law Secretary and

Earlier, on June 29, Additional At-

orney General Abdul Wadud Khan-

daker concluded his submission in a

the Constitution put a bar to it."

This bar, he said, is with regard to

four distinct offices - the Election

Commissioners, judges of the

Supreme Court, the Auditor and

Comptroller General and members of

the Public Service Commission (PSC).

been created to ensure that holders

of such offices monitoring the corri-

dors of power were not amenable to

Govt-MQM talks

From Page 1

would be demanded, making Sind's

division inevitable," The News daily

"Should the talks fail, a province

any influence in the future promises.

He submitted that the bar had

the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

The writ petition was filed by

the writ challenging under what au-

ervone serves the Republic and all are

in the services of the Republic, the

High Court was told yesterday, re-

ports UNB.

Appellate Division.

KABUL, July 11: Government forces battled a rival faction in central

Chinese scientist says

Integrated farming to boost production

By Staff Correspondent

A Chinese scientist said in Dhaka vesterday that integrated farming by using wastes as fertilizer and fish feed could improve agricultural production in Bangladesh despite the decline in its soil fertility.

He said it was possible to cultivate paddy in water and produce 28 tonnes of rice per hectare without any fertiliser and much investment.

"The integrated approach of farming means one has to utilise crop cultivation, forestry, livestock and fisheries simultaneously," said Prof George L Chan at a seminar held at the Grameen Bank head office in the

By systematic management of wastes, fish feed can be produced from manures of livestock, which can also be utilised as fertiliser. Under this system, crops, forestry, fisheries and livestock will supplement each other's production level

The whole system of such integrated farming, he said, is being termed as 'sustainable agriculture production system,' which is totally environment-friendly and could also raise the soil fertility level of Bangladesh. The seminar was also addressed

by Deputy Managing Director of the Bank, Muhammad Khaled Shams. Managing Director Muhammad Yunus was also present.

Chan observed that thousands of ponds in Bangladesh could be utilised as part of the integrated farming.

He also called for setting up biogas plants, utilizing the wastes, for cheap fuel.

SARAJEVO, July 11: The UN "safe

area" of Srebrenica fell Tuesday to

the Bosnian Serbs despite a NATO

airstrike designed to end a five-day

offensive against the eastern enclave,

control of Srebrenica," setting off a

mass flight of thousands of residents,

said UN spokesman Alexander

designated "safe areas" to fall to the

Serbs. The United Nations estab-

Govt to stock urea

at abandoned

BADC godowns

By Staff Correspondent

stock fertiliser in every thana to meet

future requirements, State Minister

for Industries Lutfar Rahman Khan

to stock urea fertiliser at the BADC's

abandoned godowns to face fertiliser

crisis in the future. If required, the

number of godowns might be

increased in different districts, he

The government has taken up a

said while replying to a question by

project to set up a new cement

factory in Tahirpur thana of

Sunamgani district. The feasibility

study for the project has already been

started, the minister said answering a

question from Abdur Rouf

the BCIC-run Chhatak Cement

Factory was now 1,08,455 metric tons

which meets five per cent of the

country's total requirements, he

From Page

house with supporters carrying

bunches of flowers jostling with

reporters trying to enter the lakeside

agenda in any negotiations with the

SLORC would be: "The establishment

of certain principles, recognition of

critical objectives to be achieved

and joint approaches to the ills

Suu Kyi held fresh talks with political

Meanwhile reliable sources said,

Shortly after her release she met

separately with three key figures in

the National League for Democracy

(NLD). A second meeting with one

NLD leader was reported underway

apparently conferring with NLD

colleagues to decide how to proceed.

to contact her husband, British

academic Michael Aris, since her

release because she had no telephone

international community should view

her release, she said: "I would like

them to see it as a good sign, a

hopeful sign, but I would like them to

regard it with caution, cautious

movement was still strong and

dedicated. "I do know that

democracy will come to Myanmar

because it is something that people

The government has said it would

not yield power to civilians until a

She said Myanmar's democracy

Sources here said she was

Suu Kyi said she had been unable

Asked about how the

She said the main items on her

compound of her home.

besetting the country".

allies in Yangon today.

in her house.

optimism I link."

want."

The annual average production of

Advocate Khairul Enam.

Choudhury.

added.

told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

The government has no plan to

However, he said, there are plans

Srebrenica is the first of six UN

"The Bosnian Serb army is now in

reports AP.

Four yields of paddy a year are possible from cultivation in ponds and waterbodies without any fer-

"In China, we have got even bet-

ter results where all we have to do was

transplant the paddy seeds on a raft.

There were no weeds to remove nor

any watering necessary. After 13

tegrated farming, one required only a

hectare of land with at least two

George L Chan

system in Vietnam, one earns as much

as US 400 dollars from the fishes of

lished the zones two years ago to

protect civilians, but the designation

did not stop Serbs from targeting

tions about the UN role in Bosnia, US

Defense Secretary William Perry said

he hoped it would not be necessary

to withdraw UN forces from Bosnia.

"because I continue to believe that

UN forces are providing valuable ser-

town had been overrun and that

Dutch peacekeepers who had set up a

line south of the town to defend it

against a rebel assault had abandoned

their post. They were attempting to

re-establish a similar defense line out-

side the main peacekeeping base in

Potocari, north of the town, he said.

Treasury bench

indecision leads to

expiry of ordinance

The government party in parlia-

The Companies Profits (Workers

ment yesterday suffered a stumbling

setback as it failed to sail through a

President's ordinance because of

Participation) (Amendment) Bill

1995 stood lapsed as it failed to

come into effect today as per rule.

liament on the first day of the budget

This is for the first time that an

In absence of Finance Minister

Ordinance lapsed because of the rul-

Saifur Rahman and State Minister for

Finance Mojibur Rahman, Law Minis-

ter Mirza Golam Hafiz moved the

new constitution is drafted, but has

given no timetable. Suu Kyi met

government officials for talks at least

twice at her house last year, but no

Suu Kyi, 50, would have

completed six years of detention on

July 19. After her release, she was

visited at her house by Tin Oo and

Kyi Maung, senior officials of her

party. Both men were released from

Myanmar. She is the daughter of Aung

Myanmer's struggle for independence

from Britain in the 1940s. She led pro-

democracy demonstrations in 1988.

when soldiers killed hundreds of

people. Her party easily won general

elections in 1990 but the military

The government knew that

freeing Suu Kyi invited trouble but

also would improve relations with

foreign countries and attract funds

for nascent Western-style economic

reforms. Major Asian and Western

countries expressed hope that Suu

Kyi's release was the start of political

today they were drawing new strength

government by means of non-violent

struggle for democracy. ... We must

not lose the momentum," said Tin

Maung Win, vice chairman of the

in prison. The prison is the whole

"There are 40 million people still

Democratic Alliance of Myanmar.

Myanmar's resistance groups said

"This is a victory over the military

San, the assassinated leader of

Suu Kyi has a fervent following in

details have been disclosed.

prison earlier this year.

refused to cede power.

rom Suu Kvi's release.

country," he said today.

ing party's indecision in Parliament.

The Ordinance was laid before par-

split opinion.

Suu Kyi at press confce

Ivanko said the eastern Bosnian

vices in the country."

While the setback raised ques-

one pond a year," he pointed out.

NATO launches airstrikes

Srebrenica falls to Serbs

"Under the integrated farming

The scientist said that for the in-

weeks, we got the harvest.'

implemented and enforced, it will be a historic step toward the elimination In the Philippines, scientists have of child labour," Harkin said in a cultivated IRRI by floating it on wastatement made available in the city ter and found amazing results, the vesterday. scientist said.

reports UNB.

"I am hopeful that soon other developing countries will take note and soon follow Bangladesh's lead, said the American lawmaker who had introduced the much-talked-about Harkin Bill to the Congress seeking ban on goods produced with child

Senator Harkin

welcomes MOU

on child labour

welcomed the memorandum of

understanding MOU on elimination of

child labour from Bangladesh's

garments industry and hoped other

developing countries would follow it

"As this agreement is

US Senator Tom Harkin has

He also commended Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and International Labour Organisation (ILO) for signing the

Death penalty

From Page

the President was read out by the Speaker, the Deputy Leader of the House, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, regretted the continued boycott of the two budget sessions by the Opposition MPs and said the present political impasse was created by the opposition parties.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali said the Business Advisory Committee had earlier decided to continue the session till July 16. But at a meeting vesterday, the committee revised its earlier decision as a large number of MPs had left the capital for their constituencies affected by sudden

At around 9:50 pm, the Speaker read out the prorogation order Leader of the House and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was not present at the House as she was on a visit to the floodhit areas.

The budget session which began on June 15, had 17 working days dur ing which eight bills were passed. A total of 18 notices on matters of public importance were disposed of and some 200 questions were asked by treasury bench members. The budget for 1995-96 financial year was passed on June 29.

The other important part of the 20th session was that more than 140 opposition MPs crossed the constitutional limit of absence on the second sitting day on June 19. According to the Constitution, a member will vacate his seat if he remains absent for 90 consecutive sitting days without the leave of the House.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas had last week referred the matter to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for interpretation of the relevant provisions of the Constitution. He had also requested the Speaker, through the Law Minister, to refrain from informing the House about the consecutive 90-day absence until the Supreme Court gives its decision on the matter.

Hasina donates Tk 2 lakh for flood victims

By Staff Correspondent Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday handed over Taka two lakh to the party's sub-committee on social welfare for carrying out relief operations in the flood-hit dis-

She instructed the sub-committee to gear up relief work

The meeting called for "starting" relief operations in all the affected areas immediately.

PM visits

From Page 1 ability of pure drinking water to the

from post-flood diseases. The Prime Minister later visited a flood shelter at the district collec-

flood affected people to save them

torate office. About 2.33 lakh flood affected people have taken shelter in 95 flood

shelters opened by the district administration. The Prime Minister told the loca political leaders that none of the flood-hit districts would be declared

disaster area. She urged the local MPs to stay in their constituencies and look after the flood victims. She directed the police administration to take necessary measures to

check the incidence of theft and dacoity in the flood affected areas. Earlier, Begum Khaleda Zia addressed a gathering at Sirajganj University College ground in the town

and assured allout assistance to the flood affected people of the district At the Gaibandha Circuit House. the Prime Minister held a meeting with the officials of the district ad-

ministration. The Prime Minister also addressed a gathering here.

During her visit to the flood-ravaged areas of the Kurigram district, the Prime Minister directed the district administration to gear up relief activities in the affected areas.

She, however, warned all concerned to ensure proper distribution of relief, saying that stern measures would be taken against irregularities.

Later, the Prime Minister visited the Town Protection Embankment and a flood centre at the Kurigram Riverview High School. She also distributed some food among the flood victims there.

The Prime Minister arrived at Bogra in the evening and visited some areas. She will visit the other affected areas in the district this morn-



despite knee deep water inside

at Gaibandha kitchen - Star photo by Rezaul Haque

The very poor as poor as ever

By Staff Correspondent

In 1994 the moderate poor made some improvement in their material condition over the previous year's while the state of the extreme poor remained unchanged. So observed vesterday the Rural Poverty Update, a monitoring report made annually since 1990.

However, there has been distinct improvement in some areas of extreme poverty such as vulnerable housing, access to clothes and Disclosing the highlights of the

Rural Poverty Update 1994, at a seminar vesterday Hossain Zillur Rahman. a research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) said, rural poverty is still the single most important development challenge facing Bangladesh. The BIDS has been monitoring

the rural poverty in the country, under the Analysis of Poverty Trends Project, since 1990. The present report is the third in

the series of annual updates on rural poverty. Representatives from different

development agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) attended the meeting held at BIDS conference room. Mr Abu Abdullah The survey was conducted on 62

villages situated in different parts of The report said, the females are the worst victim among the rural

poor, as "the burden of poverty falls disproportionately on the female half of the population. "Though rural poverty is a general

rather than a regional phenomenon. there are certain pockets of chronic distress, in particular alongside the major rivers," the report added.

Employing the word "poverty" if a broad sense, the report classified the poor according to income level, food security, human resource capacity and quality of life.

About quality of life the report said, the extremely vulnerable housing "ihupri" has declined from 9 per cent to 2 per cent of rural housing during 1990-94 period. "Access to safe water has contin-

ued to improve with % per cent of rural households," the report men-In the area of sanitation there has

been no significant improvement. Proportion of households with access to sanitary toilets is stagnant around 20 per cent. However, there has been notice-

able improvement in extreme poverty situations such as access to winter cloth and footwear. Proportion of the rural popula-

tion not having access to winter clothes has declined from 22 to 6 per cent over 1990-94 while those not having footwear has declined from 24 to 8 per cent during the same period. According to the report, there

also has been some gains on education sector. Enrolment and retention rates for both the primary and secondary phases of the school have increased Retention rate in the transition

from the primary to the secondary phase increased from 26 to 69 per

From Page

have taken shelter in 32 centres. One of the six groins built along

dated as the Brahmaputra and Ghagot rivers continued to rise.

worsened further yesterday following more breaches in Brahmaputra Flood Control Embankment. Road link be tween the capital and Sherpur remained snapped for the fourth day vesterday.

para in Sribordhi thana drowned About 80 per cent houses in Sadar thana have gone under water partially or completely.

ports: With the fall of water level in the flood situation in Sirajganj remained unchanged vesterday.

33 temporary centres in the district. Over 90 per cent areas in the town is now under water. The flood situation in La

monirhat improved a little with water receding slowly from some areas. Fresh areas in Netrokona district

went under water as the flood situa tion deteriorated further following heavy rainfall vesterday.

Netrokona and Mohanganj remained cut off as the track was under water at some points.

Floods

thana. Some 10,000 flood victims

the western bank of Brahmaputra un der a Taka 200 crore FAP programme has been washed away. These groins were built at Gidari union to check erosion and to control flood. Por tions of Gaibandha-Sadullapur and Gaibandha-Balashi roads were inun

bid to prove that service of judges is not in the service of the Republic. Flood situation in Sherpur district Barrister Islam said, "Having served as the Chief Election Commissioner one should not be eligible for appointment to another office in the service of the Republic. Framers of

Huzur Ali, a minor boy of Tangal

Our Sirajgani correspondent re mightly Jamuna by a nominal two cm.

fected people have taken shelter in

About two and a half lakh af

Rail communication between

quoted Dehlvi as saving in its Tuesday edition. Despite the peace talks, violence continued in the nation's largest city. Nine people were killed today, including two militants and a policeman who was killed while fighting a group of armed kidnappers, a military spokesman said. On Monday, five people were

killed and 11 injured in attacks by the militants or fighting between the rebels and security forces. As part of their campaign, rebel

gunmen have forced a shutdown of all businesses in Karachi every Friday and Saturday in a bid to undermine Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's govern-Dehlvi said the MQM would con-

tinue the shutdowns unless the govpected militant strongholds. The News reported.

Bank loans

From Page 1 disbursement up to April 1995 stood

at Tk 11820 million against an annual target of Tk 19230 million. The growth rate in agri credit disbursement stood at 31 per cent compared to the same period of 1993-94. Agri loan recovery over the same period stood at Tk 8690 million or 16.82 per cent of the Tk 51650 million in outstanding loans. Up to April this year the banks

sanctioned Tk 26090 million in industrial project loans against 12,080 proiects, of which, Tk 15480 million was disbursed against 11,653 projects. The annual target of industrial loan disbursement for 1994-95 was set at Tk 31100 million compared to Tk 17950 million in 1993-94. To reduce the existing excess liq-

uidity in the banks, the government collected Tk 12350 million in funds for various development projects from the banking sector by issuing bonds and debentures.

President to peon — all serve republic: Amirul

> The job of the CEC and of a judge was perceived to be the last station for his service in the Republic, he The framers of the Constitution totally excluded the possibility of

> making these posts "musical chair" so that no executive or political power can hold out a promise to the holder of any such office that if he acts in a manner pleasing the political or executive head of the government he would be rewarded. The prohibition has been made in

order to prevent the executive government of party in power from offering a similar higher office which is held by a judge or the CEC. Barrister Islam contended that if

the service of the Republic is confined within four corners of part 9 of the Constitution, then what would happen to the Chief of Army Staff of member of defence, judicial or police services. 'Are they not in the government, in the service of the Republic?'

Service in the Republic as defined does not contain only one service, it has much larger dimension, containing not only various services but also other offices in respect of the government, the petitioner's lawyer said.

"All the services and offices are like various dolls within the composition of a Russian doll" and service of Republic is like an umbrella under which all the services and offices, including those constitutional offices, are contained as one general concept.

Barrister Islam maintained that government can be traced from the history of the first sacred Constitution document of the proclamation of independence that came from Mujibnagar on 10th April, 1971. In this document, the prime urge

for struggle for liberation is stated to be for framing a Constitution and for the people to give themselves a gov-

This, being the genesis of Bangladesh Constitution, led the people to the victory in order to give themselves a government by adopting the Constitution, the lawyer said.

He said whoever exercises sovereign authority under Article 7 of the Constitution is government.

Further, referring to Article 146, he said, government can sue and can be sued in the name of Bangladesh and Bangladesh is synonymous with the Republic and authority of that Republic is government.

Power of our government is di-

vided into the judiciary, executive

and legislature, he said adding executive's function is performed in the name of the President, but by the authority of the Prime Minister. The judicial power is vested in the

Supreme Court being the apex body of the judicial organ while the legislature functions in Parliament.

Under the Constitution, Barrister Islam said, there is no difficulties in reading service of the Republic in respect of the service of the govern-

The hearing will resume today.

Monsoon From Page 1

Monsoon break occurs when

'monsoon axis" runs across the

foothill of the Himalayas. Under the influence of the active monsoon, heavy rainfall occurred in different places of the country. Rangour recorded 592 mm rain during the first week of July against its normal rainfall 453 mm during the month

Sylhet had 472 mm rain during the week against 719 mm normal for the month, Mymensingh recorded 340 mm against 381 mm normal for the month, Dhaka recorded 151 mm against normal 386 mm for the month and Bogra recorded 318 mm against

normal 378 mm for the month. Heavy rainfall occurred over Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Barisal divisions — the prime region for drainage congestion.

UNFPA report

From Page I

knowledge is not automatically translated into practice, unless ef forts are made. Stressing the need for collective

action, the resident coordinator of the UN system in Bangladesh said that efforts by all including NGOs and the media was essential to achieve the objectives of downsizing the rate of population growth, as well as ensuring gender equity and reproductive health.

Asked about regional action, Nurul Ameen of UNFPA, said that UNFPA would convene a ministerial level meeting of SAARC countries in Dhaka soon to work out a common strategy for the countries of the re-

According to the report, world population is now 5.7 billion and annual population increments are likely to remain above 86 million until the vear 2015.

Maternal death rates are 15 to 50 times greater in the developing countries than in most developed countries. Half a million women die each year during pregnancy and childbirth, says the report.

Though levels of education have risen and the gap between males and females has narrowed, there are still nearly 960 million illiterate people, out of which two-thirds are women, says the report. "Worldwide, some 350 million

couples lack access to a full range of modern family planning information and services", says the report adding, "an estimated 120 million women would practise it if modern methods were available, affordable and acceptable to their partners." Unsafe abortion is a major threat

to the health of women. The report says out of more than 40 million abortions each year, between 26 and 31 million are performed legally, and some 20 million are performed in unsafe conditions, accounting for an estimated 67,000 deaths.

According to the report, experience around the world has shown that to address people's reproductive and sexual health needs, Family planning services need to be integrated into a wider framework which addresses their overall health and wellbeing.

Citing the principles of the Cairo programme of action, the report also calls for gender equity and strongly advocates for investment in people as key to sustainable population growth and development.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Biswas' call to ensure empowerment of women

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called upon the people to work unitedly for ensuring empower ment of women and controlling the population growth, reports UNB.

"A suitable plan and united ef forts can accelerate the development activities to build up a happy and prosperous Bangladesh," he said addressing a function at the Osmani Memorial Hall on the occasion of World Population Day.

Health and Family Welfare Minis ter Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Deputy Minister for Health Sirajul Huq, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwari Rah man, UNFPA Representative Eimi Watanabe and Health Secretary Syed Ahmed also spoke.

The Health and Family Welfare Ministry organised the function. This year's theme of the day is: "Development, Empowerment of Women and Reproductive Health."

President Biswas said the population of the country is now 12 crore. Besides this large population, the lack of resource, illiteracy and poverty have made the total situation more complicated, he said. The achievement obtained by

the government and its development programmes came under pressure for the continuous growth of population which is hampering the social and ecological balance of the country, said the President. About 50 per cent of our population are women, he said adding that

overall development is not possible without the development of women and without their active participa-

Cases against Moazzem, Chand

HC vacates stay order of proceedings

A High Court division bench yesterday rejected petitions of former deputy prime minister Shah Moazzem Hossain and former state minister for food Nurun Nabi Chand for cancelling the orders to frame charges against them in two corruption cases, reports

A World Bank team led by the outgoing Country Director Paul Isenman called on Awami

League chief Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence in the city yesterday. Also seen

is Meiko Nishimizu, the newly appointed Country Director.

Mohammad Golam Rabbani and Justice Mohammad Tofazzal Islam also vacated the stay order of the proceedings granted earlier when the rule was issued on their applications. Moazzem and Chand filed two applications before the High Court

The bench comprising Justice

division bench against the order of framing charges by the special tribunal and Additional Sessions Judge, Dhaka against them. The case, in brief, is that Nurul Islam, an officer of the Bureau of Anticorruption lodged two cases against former deputy prime minister in charge of food ministry Shah

Moazzem Hossain and former state

minister for food under Ershad

regime with the Ramna police station

alleging that without requirement and

Magsaysay Award for Pak lawyer

MANILA, July 11: A Pakistani human rights lawyer who fought to ease her nation's harsh Islamic laws has been chosen to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service, the award foundation announced today, reports AFP.

Asma Jahangir, founding Secretary General of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

sanction of the Food Directorate and without tender they purchased 18 lakhs gunny bags valued at Taka crore and 30 lakhs.

The trial of the Special Tribunal

Case No 39 of 1991 and 40 of 1991 against Hossain and Chand is now pending before the Special Tribunal No 2 and Additional Sessions Judge, Khandker Mahbub Hossain conducted the case on behalf of Shah

Moazzem Hossain and Nurun Nabi

Chand. Attorney General Aminul Huq. Deputy Attorney General AFM Shahid and Assistant Attorney General Syed Motiul Islam Montu appeared for the

Attempt to brand Farida Rahman as anti-Islamic condemned

By Staff Correspondent

Some 111 professionals, devel

opment workers, journalists and woman activists of 67 organisations yesterday condemned the attempt to brand Farida Rahman MP as anti-Islam for her remarks against the fundamentalists. In a joint statement, they said there was a growing trend to brand

the persons speaking for the protec tion of women and human rights as murtad or opponents of Islam. They called for resisting such attempts which are detrimental to democracy and human rights.

- AL photo