



## Delhi hikes defence budget by 21pc

NEW DELHI, Feb 28: India today hiked its military spending by 21 per cent to 10.2 billion US dollars in its federal budget for fiscal year to March, 1998, reports AFP.

The hefty increase of 1.8 billion dollars over the previous year's allocation stood around 17 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

Finance Minister Palanisappan Chidambaram in his annual federal budget also promised to grant more funds to the defence sector if necessary.

On the capital account I am providing 2.54 billion dollars with a clear promise that any additional requirement of defence for capital expenditure will be adequately provided.

In the past, revenue expenditure of the defence services had been routinely underprovided. This year, I have requested the Ministry of Defence to fully provide for the revenue expenditure.

See Page 12 Col 1

## Delhi to extend Rs 30 cr credit facility to Dhaka

NEW DELHI, Feb 28: India will extend credit facility of rupees 30 crore to Bangladesh in the proposed budget for the fiscal 1997-98 beginning April one, reports BSS.

Presenting the union budget for 1997-98 to parliament Finance Minister P Chidambaram said Bhutan would get credit facility of Rupees 60 crore during the fiscal besides a grant of rupees 105 crore.

The Maldives will get rupees 18 crore while Myanmar and Sri Lanka will receive rupees 20 crore and rupees 5.5 crore respectively, the minister said.

## PM asks tax officials to achieve target

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the tax officials to rise above petty interest and discharge their duties with utmost sincerity to make the government's economic programmes a success, reports UNB.

"Your honesty, sincerity and efficiency will help us achieve success in our struggle for economic emancipation," she said addressing the Annual General Meeting of BCS Taxation Association at a local hotel in the evening.

Success and failure of government's economic development programmes depends on the role of tax officials in mobilising resources, Hasina said. "You are the main force of the government to collect internal resources for economic progress," she said.

In the current fiscal year, she said, the target of economic growth has been fixed at six per cent and that of revenue growth at 12 per cent. She said tax officials attained the target of revenue collection in the first six months and hoped that they

See Page 12 Col 5

## Storm lashes 3 thanas in Pabna

PABNA, Feb 28: A storm swept over three thanas of the district early today, damaging some 200 kutcha houses and outstanding briar crops, reports UNB.

Officials said the storm with a speed of about 70 kilometres per hour, damaged some 25 villages in Sadar, Sathia and Bera thanas at about 4.30 am.

About 200 dwelling houses, hundreds of trees and electric poles were uprooted by the storm which continued for about half-an-hour.

## Inside Today Article

### Rice Outlook: Chewy Challenges

Column: Beneath the Surface  
by Abdul Bayes  
Page 4

## International

Indo-Pak talks need no preconditions, says I K Gujral

Four key ROK officials sacked  
Page 5

## Business

Major DSE indicators fall to new low  
Page 8

## Villagers attack camp Ansars open fire in Savar: 4 killed

By Staff Correspondent

Four persons were killed and at least 15 people including seven Ansars injured when Ansars opened fire during a clash with villagers at Sadapur in Savar near the city yesterday morning.

The dead were identified as Rupashi Begum, a housewife, and farmers Sayed Mollah, Mojibur Mollah and Sayeed Alam, Savar police said.

Two of the injured, Zahuruddin, 40, and Iqbal Hossain, 35, were under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

The other injured were taken to different hospitals and clinics at Savar and Manikganj.

Details about the dead and the injured people, aged between 30 and 45, could not be known.

immediately. Most of them were however, said to be farmers from Sadapur village.

The incident occurred when a section of the villagers at Sadapur, six km off Savar thana, went to evict the Ansars from a camp on a land report-

**At least five persons were killed in the clash at Sadapur village in Savar yesterday, BSS quoting police and hospital sources said late last night.**

edly owned by Partex Group of Industries, police said.

The Ansar camp was set up about a month ago to resist a section of local people from using the land for their own purpose, police added.

The villagers yesterday rushed to the camp at about 11 am and asked the 15-Ansar per-

sonnel on duty to leave the camp. Then they started pelting bricks and entered the camp to oust the Ansar, police said quoting local people.

At one stage of the hour-long clash, the Ansars opened fire. Police from Savar thana rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Four of the injured villagers died after they were taken to a local hospital. Their bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy, police said.

Meanwhile, police closed the Ansar camp following the incident while the injured Ansars including platoon commander were taken to local hospital.

Neither the senior Ansar officials nor anyone from the Partex Group could be con-

See Page 12 Col 3

## Tripura assures Dhaka team to help repatriate Chakma refugees

An 11-member Bangladesh delegation is now visiting the Indian state of Tripura in the government's bid to bring back the Bangladeshi tribal refugees to their homeland, reports UNB.

Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, who is chairman of the national committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts, is leading the delegation comprising committee members and government officials.

The delegation held a fruitful discussion at the Secretariat of Tripura chief minister in Agartala on Thursday, official sources said in the city yesterday.

Ministers and officials of the Tripura state government have realised the Bangladesh government's goodwill and sincerity about the rehabilitation of the tribal refugees.

They assured the Bangladesh delegation of all-out cooperation in the repatriation of the tribal refugees.

It included national committee members Chittagong city

See Page 12 Col 1

## Tremors kill 100 in Iran, 80 in Baluchistan

ISLAMABAD, Feb 28: A powerful earthquake shattered a remote corner of western Pakistan early today, killing at least 80 people, say ambulance workers, report agencies.

For nearly one minute the earth heaved violently destroying hundreds of homes built of sun-baked mud.

Most of the dead were asleep in their flimsy mud homes when the earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.3, shook the southwest province of Baluchistan.

Neighbours used their hands to dig through the mud, while they waited for rescue workers to arrive from the provincial capital of Quetta, nearly 113 kilometers away from the epicenter, the official news media reported.

A similar earthquake measuring six on the open-ended Richter Scale also rocked the Aradabil region of northwest Iran today, causing casualties and damage, the Iranian official news agency reported from Tehran.

In Harnai district, 145 kilometers east of Quetta, a landslide left 235 families trapped in their homes, senior administration official Fawad Hassan Fawad told reporters.

In Quetta, frightened residents spent the night outside in the bitter cold, afraid to return indoors.

At sunrise the authorities were urging people to return to their homes. But wrapped in woolen blankets and sleeping on the roadside most people refused fearful of further tremors.

Hospitals struggled to keep

**TEHRAN, Feb 28: At least 100 people were killed and 250 others injured in an earthquake which rocked the Aradabil region of northwest Iran this afternoon, according to the latest toll reported by Tehran radio. The quake caused devastation in 40 villages around Aradabil and in the regions of Nir and Sarein, all in Iranian Azerbaijan near the Caspian Sea, AFP quoting the radio added.**

up with the wounded and public buildings were turned into temporary shelters.

Electricity was shut down briefly following the quake, but telephones and water supply remained unaffected.

About 200,000 people live in Quetta but most of the havoc was wreaked in the remote regions of Baluchistan.

According to the US Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado, the quake was centered east-southeast of Quetta.

The Sibi district of Baluchistan was the hardest hit area. Ambulance workers said at least half the village of Harnai was destroyed. They estimate that as many as 60 people may have been killed in that village alone.

"We're getting relief workers there as quickly as we can," said Zafar Haider, deputy commissioner of Sibi told The Associated Press.

But communications are sporadic and in some areas they

See Page 12 Col 3

## Pakistan SAARC cricket champions



Pakistan A captain Asif Mujtaba receives the trophy of the third SAARC cricket tournament from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the award-giving ceremony at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo

Sports Reporter

Pakistan A won the third SAARC cricket tournament defeating arch-rivals India A by a better run-rate in a rain-marred final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The clash of the two giants in the cricketing world came to a sad end when unseasonal rain stopped India's victory chase of 200 in 44 overs.

India were 124 for five wickets in 31 overs when rain intervened. But they were required to score 163 for a victory. And when rain stopped it was all over for India as the existing rules declared Pakistan winner of the tournament meet for better run-rate.

It was the maiden title triumph for Pakistan in unofficial one-day tourney involving the second-string sides from three Test playing nations — India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — and hosts Bangladesh.

The final of the two deserving contenders which attracted a modest crowd, however, got off to a delayed start due to heavy fog that hung over the big bowl in the morning.

The match finally started at 10:40 am. And Pakistan, sent into bat, were all out for 199 in

See Page 12 Col 4

## Prince Charles visits gas fields in Bay

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 28: Prince Charles had a four-hour hectic visit to the port city of Chittagong today.

The British Prince was received by Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Shakwat Hossain and other high officials when his special aircraft landed at the Chittagong Air-

## Charles leaves for London

The heir to the British throne, Prince Charles, was given a hearty send off as he left Dhaka for London yesterday concluding a three-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad saw him off at the airport.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Dhaka city mayor Mohammad Hanif, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, British High Commissioner in Dhaka David Walker and Dean of Diplomatic Corps Shahta Zarab were present.

The Prince also attended a

See Page 12 Col 3

## RAF captain recalls memories of '71 war

By Staff Correspondent

Prince Charles brought with him a person who has some memories linked with Bangladesh's Liberation War.

Squadron Leader Jim Backer, Captain of the Royal Airforce plane in which the British Prince flew to Dhaka, earlier came here for an evacuation operation during the War in 1971.

Jim Backer was then a co-pilot of the C-130 Hercules aircraft which had evacuated the staff and officials of various foreign missions in Dhaka during the last phase of the Liberation War.

"The staff and officials of various foreign missions were first taken to Calcutta and then to Singapore," he recalled while talking to The Daily Star from his hotel in the city yesterday. Two aircraft were involved in the evacuation operation, he said. He said he did not get chance to come to Bangladesh ever since the war.

Backer had made two runs between Calcutta and Dhaka, evacuating 176 people, he recalled. The other aircraft had made one run, he said.

"The runway of Dhaka airport was hit accurately by the

See Page 12 Col 4

## Confce of former UZ chairmen belonging to JP today

Star Report

A conference of former chairmen of now-defunct upazila, belonging to Jatiya Party and those given nomination for the last general elections is scheduled to be held today at the premises of the Asiatic Printers, at Tejgaon in the city.

The conference is going to be held as a mobilisation campaign of the party rank and file following the release of JP leader and former President HM Ershad, said a party source.

Meanwhile, a two-day meeting of the extended committee of JP concluded Thursday night at the premises of Asiatic Printers with an emotional speech delivered by the party chief, said the source adding that the high hopes to build the party at the grassroots level generated enthusiasm among the rank and file.

Ershad was flanked by his wife Roushan, an MP, on one side and Zinat, another party MP and president member on the other side for some time during the concluding day of the extended committee's meeting, to sources said.

The meeting decided to ac-

See Page 12 Col 8

## JEC meets in Dhaka soon: Brujerdi

By M Anwarul Haq

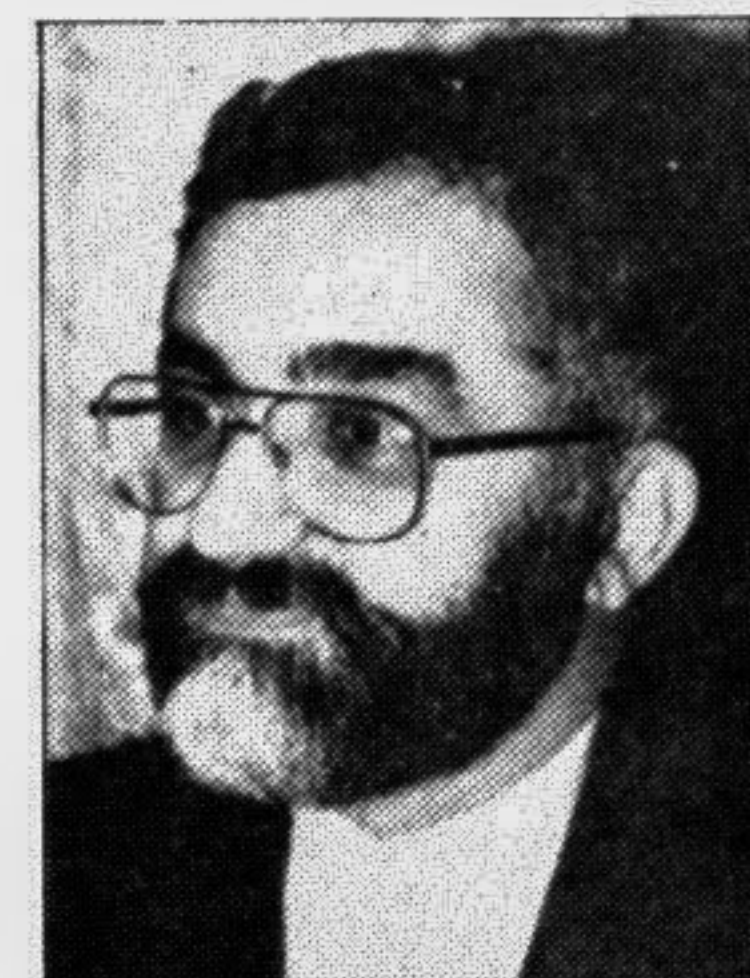
Bangladesh-Iran Joint Economic Commission (JEC) will meet in Dhaka shortly to explore further areas of 'sustainable cooperation' between the two countries.

In an interview with The Daily Star on Thursday in Dhaka, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran Alauddin Brujerdi said that Dhaka-Tehran ties would be bolstered further after the JEC meeting, which would be preceded by a high level Iranian delegation's visit to Dhaka. An Iranian Trade Show will also be organised in the Bangladesh capital shortly, the minister said. The Charge d'Affaires of the Iranian Embassy Mohammad Abbaszadeh was present during the interview.

The Iranian Minister spoke elaborately about transit facilities, trade relations, the OIC, trans-Asian gas pipeline project and a number of other issues.

Alauddin Brujerdi said that both Bangladesh and Iran were 'investment absorbing countries' and that direct air links between Dhaka and Tehran were likely to be opened after the ensuing Hajj.

He said more Iranian cultural centres could be opened in



Alauddin Brujerdi

Bangladesh on the basis of agreement.

He noted that Dhaka was ahead of Delhi in signing a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Iran, Turkmenistan and Bangladesh for using transit facilities of Iran's Bandar Abbas port and railway facilities for sending Bangladeshi goods

See Page 12 Col 4

## Bangabandhu murder: Six to be produced in court today

Star Report

The six accused chargesheeted in the Bangabandhu murder case are scheduled to be produced before the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) today.

They are: Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooqur Rahman; Lt Col (relieved) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan; Taheruddin Thakur, former minister of state for information; Lt Col Mohiuddin Ahmed, former Acting Director, BNCC, Dhaka; Capt (Hon) Abdul

See Page 12 Col 5

## Sec 144 at Birasha in B'baria

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 28: The district administration has imposed Section 144 at Birasha under Sadar thana for tomorrow as two groups announced separate programmes of Waz Mehfil at the same venue at the same time.

Delwar Hossain Saidee, MP, is scheduled to attend a waz at Birasha while Protigya, a social organisation, has arranged another waz mehfil at the same venue.

Five hundred policemen have been deployed to avert any untoward incident in the area.

Meanwhile, local units of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee and Muktiyoddha Sangad voiced against the programme of Saidee.

## Autopsy report Shima died of typhoid

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 28: The autopsy report on Shima Chowdhury was submitted by Forensic Department of the Chittagong Medical College Hospital, sources said today.

Prof Hasanuzzaman Bhuiyan and Dr Mahbub Ullah conducted the post-mortem examination.

The report stated that Shima Chowdhury died of typhoid.

No symptom of poison was found in the stomach and blood of Shima, the autopsy report said.

Shima died in 'safe custody' in Chittagong jail on February 7.

### রাতের বেলা সেচ পাম্প চালানো উত্তম

- রাতে মাটি ঠাণ্ডা থাকে, সূর্যতাপে পানির অপচয় হয় না, ফলে পানি সেচে খরচ কম হয়।
- রাত ১০-৩০ মিঃ এর পর সেচ পাম্প চালালে সঠিক ডোজের ও অব্যাহত বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ পাওয়া সম্ভব। এভাবে অধিক ফসল ফলিয়ে নিজে লাভবান হোন ও দেশের অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নে সহায়তা করুন।
- সন্ধ্যা ৫-৩০ মিঃ থেকে রাত ১০-৩০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত সেচ পাম্প বন্ধ রাখুন এবং রাত ১০-৩০ মিঃ এর পর থেকে রাত ও দিনের অন্য সময় পাম্প চালান।
- কৃষি নির্ভর বাংলাদেশে সেচ পাম্পগুলোর সর্বোত্তম ব্যবহার করে অধিক ফসল ফলান। বিদ্যুৎ দেশের প্রাণপ্রবাহ, এর সুষ্ঠু ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করুন।
- রাতের বেলা সেচ পাম্পগুলোতে একটানা বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড এবং ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ একটি সমন্বিত কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করেছে।

বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড    পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড    ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ

DFP-4370-25/2