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CPD-SRS survey says

About 50 pc for punitive steps against loan defaulters

Some 85 per cent people believe that the debtors themselves are responsible for the huge amount of bank loan default while 52 per cent of them insist that punitive actions be taken against the defaulters, according to an independent study report released to the press yesterday, report agencies.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in collaboration with the Survey and Research System (SRS) conducted the survey among 1250 people in 61 districts from December 5 to 11.

The punitive actions, suggested by the respondents, include barring the defaulters from entering into political activities and holding public offices, disqualifying them along with their relatives for getting further loans, issuing of no licences and permits and impris-

Releasing the report, CPD

chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan said the study reflects the opinion of the country's common people who appear to be 'tough' on the defaulters.

The study found that 71 per cent of the respondents believe that corrupt bank officials had collaborated with the debtors while 55.1 per cent of them think that senior government officials were also involved in the scandal.

Some 83 per cent of the respondents, however, suggested writing off the agricultural loans to farmers while only 1.5 per cent gave their verdict in favour of writing off industrial loans in special circumstances.

The survey reveals that majority of the people were of the opinion that the present import liberalisation policy is not right and import tax be imposed for the benefit of the local prod-

He, however, said the central

bank should have a good man-

agement to exercise autonomy.

loans he said it has been a polit-

ical decision by the govern-

ments. He suggested for more

assistance to the agriculture

sector because it has employs 60

Criticising Grameen Bank's

Forrest Cookson said the

to 65 per cent of the workforce.

activities Saifur Rahman said

they are charging 20-22 per cent

interest but not supporting the

1989 reform programme shifted

attention from development of

agriculture and industry to re-

building institutions. This pol-

icy has proved a failure and

both the government and the

donors should now make up for

the loss by providing more

credit facilities to farmers and

Manzoor Murder Case

Rule on DC for

Maj Emdad's bail

sued rule upon the deputy com-

missioner, Dhaka, to show

cause within two weeks as to

why accused Major (retd) Kazi

Emdadul Hug should not be en-

larged on bail in the Manzoor

comprising Justice Mahmudul

Amin Chowdhury and Justice

Shah Abu Nayeem Maminur Rahman issued the rule after

pending in the court of First

Additional District and Ses-

sions Judge, Dhaka, out of

seven accused persons two were

shown dead and five including

former president Hossain Mo-

hammad Ershad have been

except Major (retd) Kazi Em-

dadul Hug, four have been en-

larged on bail. Two of them

were granted bail by the trial

court while two others got bail

cate Mahbubur Rahman, coun-

sel of the petitioner, submitted

that Major (retd) Kazi Emdadul

Huq was in jail for more than

two years and three months and

was being thus punished with-

India resumes

Tension is mounting in the

UNB adds from Lal-

From Page 1

border area centring this inci-

monirhat: A flag meeting be-

tween Bangladesh Rifles (BDR)

and Indian Border Security

Force (BSF) was held at Guch-

libari frontier in Patgram

meeting, which began at the no-

man's land at 4:30 pm, could

sent a letter to the Deputy Mag-

istrate of Kuchabihar, protest-

ing the construction of a road

not be known immediately.

on the no-man's land.

Details of the battalion-level

The district administration

Earlier, a state of confronta-

tion between the border security

forces of Bangladesh and India

was prevailing across the no-

man's land at Guchlibari bor-

The Indian BSF took posi-

tion last night with heavy

weapons and erected bunkers

following a tussle with BDR

Bangladesh side also took posi-

tion with heavy weapons and

set up bunkers this morning

workers had actually stopped-

work yesterday after the BDR

objected to the illegal construc-

tion of a road on the no-man's

The Indians backed by the

BSF, resumed work Saturday

BDR personnel on the

BDR sources said civilian

over construction of the road.

dent, the sources said.

Moving the petition, Advo-

from the High Court division.

Out of five accused persons,

In the Manzoor Murder Case

A division bench of the HC

Murder Case, reports BSS.

hearing a writ petition.

charge sheeted.

out trial.

sources said.

thana today.

(Sunday).

night.

A High Court yesterday is-

industrialists, he said.

agricultural sector.

Dwelling on waiving of

A large section of people also feel that a greater autonomy and tax incentive can make the state-owned enterprises prof-

"The results send signals to the government and donors . . if the government formulates policy in a democratic society. they should take note of it," said Prof Rehman Sobhan.

Some 35.2 per cent of the respondents think that import tax should be imposed to benefit the local products even though it may affect quality while imports of products like clothing. bidi/cigarettes, electric fan, ball pen/pen, blade, soap and tooth paste be totally banned.

As high as 91 per cent respondents are of the opinion that a minimum support price be given to paddy. Most of them also favour such price support to crops like wheat, potato, sugar cane and jute.



Fianna Fail leader Bertie Ahern with running mate Marian McGennis at the Dublin count in the Irish elections held on Saturday. With counting continuing yesterday, the center-right party was favoured to form the new government, backed by a small number of independents in a hung parliament. — AFP/UNB photo

Kibria: BB autonomous

Bangladesh Bank to work inde-

pendently. Kibria said that the rate of bad loans in the banking system was 30 to 40 per cent (about Tk 13,000 crore). The present government is taking tough measures against defaulters, he said. "Most of the borrowers now know they have to pay back," he added.

Former finance minister Saifur Rahman, FBCCI President Yussuf Abdullah Harun AmCham President Forrest E Cookson and BIDS researcher Devapriya Bhattachariya also addressed the inaugural session of the workshop.

Former finance advisor in the caretaker government Dr Wahiduddin Mahmood, World Bank Resident Chief Pierre Landell-Mills and former finance minister M A Muhit were also present. No representative from the Bangladesh Bank was present.

The workshop will make some recommendations to the government to strengthen the country's financial sector.

Suggesting the commercial banks to give big loans by form ing syndicate, Kibria said, "The syndication must be followed for its transparency, accountability, low risk and good recovery of loans.

Former finance minister Saifur Rahman said one cannot expect complete autonomy of

Dhaka protests

From Page 1 in civilian clothes.

"After landing," the press release said, "two persons alighted from the helicopter and asked the local people whether the place was situated inside India or Bangladesh and enquired about the distance of Agartala and Balla check post from there.

"After they were told that the place they had landed was inside Bangladesh, the helicopter took off at 1820 hours and flew eastward towards India. Total duration of the helicopter's stay inside Bangladesh was five minutes," the release said.

"Immediately after learning about the intrusion and violation of Bangladesh air space by the Indian helicopter, a protest was lodged both with the Indian High Commission in Dhaka and the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi," it added.

The Indian government was asked to investigate immediately the reason for such violation, provide detailed information on the helicopter and its crew and other passengers, and also ensure prevention of recurrence of such incidents.

While a formal reply from the Indian government on the incident is still awaited, they have informed verbally about conducting an investigation into the matter upon protest from the Bangladesh govern-

4 boys rescued

From Page 1

Shafiullah alias Shahjahan informed police that, his wife and children had been in Dubai. They very often send minor boys to Dubai.

The arrested Abdus Sattar from whose house the gang was caught is nightguard of Duk-bunglow at Jakiganj. He had married the younger sister of Shahana, a member of the gang. The gang was enroute to Dubai through India, said po-

2 child lifters

From Page 1

waiting along with her mother at Kishoreganj railway station for a Dhaka-bound train this morning.

Local people caught the lifters red handed when they tried to leave the station with the victim Farida by a rickshaw cheating her drowsy mother.

Later, the two lifters were handed over to Kishoreganj po-

PM, ministers discuss economic the Bangladesh Bank since 50 per cent finance for the counsituation try's annual development programmes comes from abroad.

The overall economic situation of the country was discussed on the eve of drafting the national budget for 1997-98 fiscal year at a meeting held at the state guest house Jamuna last night, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, members of the council of ministers, advisors to the Prime Minister, whips of the Jatiya Sangsad and Chairman of Privatisation Board were

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria apprised the meeting of the present economic situation of the country.

7 hurt in AL-BNP clash in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, June 8: Seven people were injured in a clash between the supporters of ruling Awami League and opposition BNP in front of Anwara thana parishad today, reports UNB. Police said the clash began when Anwara unit of the BNP was submitting a memorandum to the TNO to complain about the alleged irregularities and nepotism in relief distribution in the thana.

Of the injured, Anwar Safa, 35, of BNP was admitted to the thana health complex with head injuries.

Earlier, the BNP held a protest meeting at the local Shaheed Minar premises in this regard.

Combing operations

More troops deployed in Tripura

AGARTALA, June 8: An army column has arrived in Tripura to strengthen combing operations against insurgents while more army columns are expected, according to official sources, reports PTI.

With the arrival of an army column yesterday, the strength of army columns in the state has risen to thirteen.

The government had recently requested the centre to provide twelve additional columns of the army for strengthening patrolling and combing operations, the sources said.

AL, BNP trying to destroy JP: Ershad NILPHAMARI, June 8

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad has said the ruling AL and the opposition BNP think of him as their strongest rival in the power race and they are spending lavishly to destroy his party, reports UNB. Addressing a big public rally

at Chilahati Merchant High School ground here today he said he did not step in the trap of BNP's conspiracy after the last year's parliamentary elec-

He said while he was in jail. BNP had proposed to make him prime minister, take 50 per cent of cabinet members and 30 woman MPs from the Jatiya Party after the last election.

Ershad said it was a lucrative proposal, but he rejected it as he had realised that it was a trap of BNP.

The former president said JP would come to power through next election, foiling all conspiracies of AL and BNP as people are with his party which is becoming stronger.

BNP

From Page 1 blamed the government for

hampering the interest of the farmers by increasing prices of agri-inputs and opening border for Indian products.

"The way they behave shows as if there is no need for production in the country," he said adding "It's an unproductive government, it is anti-development as well.

Bhuiyan accused the government of making the mass media like Betar and Television a propaganda cell for the ruling

He charged the government with sponsoring terrorism across the country and said it had killed more than 1000 BNP workers and supporters in its 11-month rule.

Bhuiyan urged the people to be united and get prepared for a movement in future to overthrow the 'tyrannical' Awami League regime. He warned that the BNP along with the people can paralyse the whole government machinery through an all-out movement.

Some 50 leaders and workers of district Jatiya Party led by Anwar Hossain, Khalid Masud and Ainur Hossain joined the BNP at the conference, expressing their allegiance to the leadership of Begum Khaleda

From Page 1

Over 75 per cent of them have multiple sex partners and most of the partners are commercial sex workers. Nearly 75 per cent had also engaged in pre-marital sex, over half of them with known individuals.

About 33 per cent of the blood donors have engaged in extra-marital sex, mostly with floating and brothel sex workers. Over 10 per cent of them have homosexual sex, oral sex anal sex with women or have a bisexual relationship.

ness about the role of condom in preventing STDs transmission, most of the sexual encounters reported by the professional blood donors were unprotected.

The research also found blood banks do not routinely screen blood for diseases. Donors are never questioned about their medical history drug use, high-risk behaviour or pattern of blood donation. nor is any pre- or post-donation counseling ever provided.

Almost no rules are followed by private blood banks for collection, testing, processing, storage and distribution of

"This dangerous situation needs urgent intervention, with particular emphasis given to screening of donated blood before transfusion and information and education on safe sex practices provided to donors, said the researchers.

Bypolls From Page 1

Wahab Khan was nominated by the BNP, Col (retd) Abdul Malek by AL, Mohammad Ramzan Ali by JP and Moazzem Hossain Khan Majles (Murad) by JSD (Rob). The two others are independent candidates, Kartik Chandra Saha and Krishak Mohammad Sadek of Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon, EC sources confirmed.

Meanwhile, the Election and fair election.

thana. Among the 1,79,286 registered voters in the constituency, a total of 92,037 are female and 87,249 are male.

Of the six candidates, Abdul

Commission has appealed to the national and international observers to get registered with EC for obtaining passes to monitor the by-election. An EC press release said, the presence of the observers would greatly contribute to conducting a free

Donated blood

As there is a lack of aware-

peacekeeping force. Responding to various problems of the division, the prime minister said the government had already taken some steps for the development of army and some others were under consideration. Some jawans told the prime

minister about some of their problems in the meeting, including promotion, pension and treatment of their parents. BSS adds: While listing some

steps already taken by her government, Sheikh Hasina said the daily fresh ration allowance of the members of the armed forces was enhanced from Taka 12.60 to Taka 25. The army regulations were rectified recently for increasing family accommodations of the armed forces personnel. As a result, 4,500 residential accommodations were increased.

Besides, a pay commission was constituted to re-fix the salary and remunerations of the armed forces personnel. Arrangements have also been made to provide rice instead of bread five days a week during day-time. More steps would be taken to increase the remunerations of the armed forces, she assured.

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Mahbubur Rahman also addressed the function.

Earlier in the morning, the prime minister dropped at Bhoradoba in Bhaluka thana of the district, 30 kilometres off the town, to see the summer exer-

After the demonstration, Hasina donated Tk 1 lakh for the Bhoradoba Girls' High School in the premises of which the demonstration was staged by the army.

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Non-payment of bank loan has created serious problem: President

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Ashes series

England go

one up

beating Australia by nine wick-

ets in the first Test at Edgbaston

spare after a batting collapse

saw the tourists lose their last

eight second innings wickets

3 stabbed,

robbed

in city

By DMC Correspondent

port area was stabbed in his

stomach by a gang of four per-

sons at around 7:30 am yester-

day and robbed of Tk 40,000,

tim Monir, 40, is a resident of

Askona under Uttara thana. He

was admitted to the Dhaka

case was registered either, the

sons were stabbed and robbed of

their money in separate inci-

second year student of Tejgaon

Government College, was

stabbed by a group of youths in

front of his Mohammadpur res-

idence at 8 am. The miscreants

attacked him and snatched

money from him following a

jon, 35, a butcher was stabbed

and robbed of Tk 5,000 at Ju-

rain Medical Road under Demra

They were admitted to the

PM: Armed forces

From Page 1

Meanwhile Mohammad Su-

previous enmity, police said.

Thana early yesterday.

dents in the city yesterday.

The Uttara thana police said, nobody was arrested. No

BSS adds: Another two per-

Monir Hossain, 22, a degree

Medical College Hospital.

Son of Faiz Ahmed, the vic-

said police sources.

police added.

A businessman of the air

Chasing 118 to win, captain

today, reports AFP.

for just 123 runs.

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 8: England went one up in

Compact Food Processor

President Shahabuddin Ahmed cautioned that the purpose of privatisation might be frustrated if the buyers take huge bank loan for operating the enterprises and join the ex-Mike Atherton (57 not out) and isting band of defaulters, re-Alec Stewart (40 not out) steered ports UNB. England to victory with a day to

> He said, "non-payment of bank loan has created a serious problem in the banking and financial system of the country."

> The President made the note of caution when a seven-member delegation of Privatisation Board, led by its Chairman Kazi Zafrullah, called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of the progress in selling out the loss-making nationalised enterprises.

They told him that since adoption of the privatisation policy in 1993, only 12 nationalised industries had been sold out till June 1996. But eight were sold in last one month and another nine are in the process.

Murtaza murder

Let's make things better

PHILIPS

Ex-Karachi police chief arrested

KARACHI, June 8: Pakistani police early today detained Karachi's former police chief in connection with the murder of Mir Murtaza Bhutto, estranged brother of former premier Be-nazir Bhutto, officials said, reports AFP.

Shoaib Suddle has been arrested under a law which allows the government to detain a per-son considered a threat to public order for 30 days.

Suddle is accused in a conspiracy case over the killing of Mir Murtaza in September last

Murtaza and seven colleagues were gunned down in a police shootout in Karachi, at a time when Suddle was chief of the Karachi police.

The killing came at a time when Murtaza was involved in a public dispute with his estranged sister, who was a political rival.

JS standing bodies From Page 1

ticularly BNP MPs, have already submitted some amendment proposals to the JS Secretariat.

Post and Telecommunications Minister and an AL stalwart Mohammad Nasim told this correspondent that standing committees needed to be formed without further delay and hoped that some sort of modus vivendi could be worked out. Through discussions, we will be able to chart out a middle course that will accommodate both our stand and their's (BNP) as well," he said.

Opposition Chief Whip and BNP central leader Khandaker Delwar Hussain said they want immediate formation of the committees for effective functioning of parliamentary democracy. Himself a member of the JS committee that prepared the report on amendments to the Rules of Procedure, Delwar Hussain told The Daily Star "we have already some grievances over the formation and composition of 11 committees, so far formed in the House.

He, however, said if AL comes up with sincerity to meet BNP's demands on the size and composition of committees, it will be possible to constitute the bodies soon.

The Opposition Chief Whip added. "Even if they (AL) agree to our demand for proportionate accommodation of MPs in the committees, they will still enjoy majority in each committee. We will get only four seats in each 12-member committee. So their is no problem at all."

He pointed out that in the Fifth Parliament, out of 35 standing committees, the then opposition AL was given seats in 21 committees in proportion to their strength in the House.

Eleven committees formed so far are: Special Committee, Business Advisory Committee, Committee on Rules of Procedure. Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions. Committee on Petitions, Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Committee on Estimates. Committee on Public Undertakings, Standing Committee on Privileges, Committee on Government Assurances and House Committee.

As per JS Rules of Procedure. the standing committee on each ministry is to transact businesses like — a) examine draft bills and other legislative proposals, b) review the enforcement of laws and propose measures for such enforcement, and c) examine any other matter referred to them by Parliament under Article 76 of the Consti-

Danda beri

From Page 1 Advocate Nizamul Huq.

He further submitted, "Being continuously restrained in bar fetters the prisoner is subjected to torture or cruelty, inhuman and degrading punishment or treatment which is violative, of his fundamental rights as guaranteed under Article 27, 31 and 35 of the constitution.

"The very provisions of keeping any prisoner under 'danda beri' is inhuman and ultravires of the Constitution,' the advocate for the petitioner submitted

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JS session begins tomorrow

From Page 1

seize the opportunity of discussing issues ranging from their local problems to national, political and economic Parliamentary parties of

ruling Awami League and oppo-

sition BNP and Jatiya Party

will meet before the session be-

gins to discuss their respective strategies for the session. Besides the national budget, the coming session is expected to take up a number of important legislative and political is-

The House will hold deliberations in the parliamentary committee report regarding the formation of parliamentary standing committees on different ministries. The report suggested that the

parliamentary standing committees should be headed by MPs instead of ministers to make them more transparent and accountable. The standing committees will be constituted after the report is passed by the House. Main opposition BNP gave

note of dissent on the report. It

insists that the standing com-

mittees be formed with propor-

tional representation of the

parties in parliament and such

provision be incorporated in

the Rules of Procedure.

The ruling party does not agree with the BNP contention. On the contrary, they want to follow the previous conventions, particularly the one followed in the fifth parliament. Another important subject

be introduced in this session. The Local Government Commission, headed by Advocate Rahmat Ali, submitted its report to the Prime Minister on May 26. The report suggested a four-tier local government -Village Parishad, Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad

to be dealt with during this session is local government bodies. Several new bills relating to the local government are likely to

elected through direct voting. LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman told the news agency that the government has a plan to hold election to the Village Parishad and Union Parishad simultaneously. Election to 4,468 Union Parishads will be held in September next. Voting will be completed from September 1 to 15.

and Zilla Parishad - to be

Upazila and Zilla Parishad elections may be held early next year, the LGRD minister indicated. A bill relating to the safety and security of Biman Bangla-

desh Airlines will be considered

It is not clear whether the

by the House.

ment to take necessary steps to separate the judiciary from the executive. Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia in the last parliament session also had urged the government to table the judiciary bill in the House and expressed her readiness to support it.

much-talked independence of

the judiciary bill will be tabled

during this session. In a recent

judgement, a High Court Divi-

sion bench advised the govern-

"There is a possibility that the bill will be placed in the budget session," Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru told the agency. Apart from budgetary and legislative businesses, there are

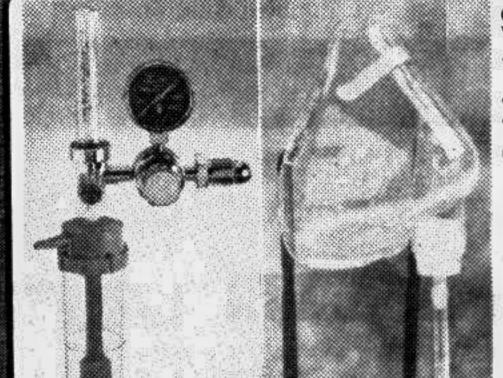
some important but old politi-

cal agenda which may also

dominate this session. The last pre-budget session had lengthy deliberation on the Ganges water treaty and transit issue. The opposition may pick up debates on the issues related to India, situation in Chittagong Hill Tracts and 'political

repression. On all counts, the forthcoming budget session will be important in the context of prevailing economic and political situation. This session will also coincide with the completion of one-year of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government.

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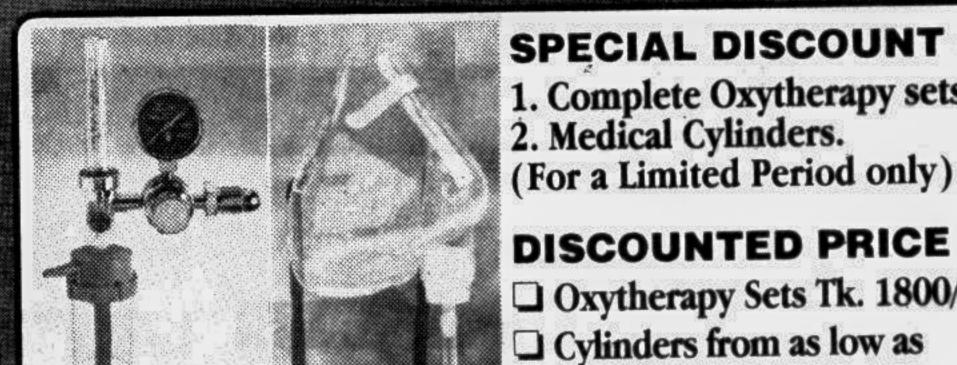
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