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VOL. VII NO. 137 REGD. NO. DA 781 JAYISTHA 28 1404 BS. DHAKA WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1997 SAFAR 4 1418 HIJRI 12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

Draft to separate DSE council from management approved

By Staff Correspondent
The Dhaka Stock Exchange Council approved the final draft of an amendment to the DSE Articles of Association separating the management from the Council.
The draft was approved at a Council meeting yesterday afternoon with DSE chairman Abdul Huq Howlader in the chair.
The proposed amendment also seeks to expand the DSE membership from the existing 195 to 250, DSE sources said.
According to the draft amendment, the DSE management has been given full authority for trading and settlement while the Council was given the authority to formulate necessary policies.
The draft amendment was sent to the DSE legal adviser for further scrutiny and then it will be submitted to the Securities Commission.
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PM may seek aid for Ganges barrage during Japan visit

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to seek Japanese financial assistance for construction of the planned Ganges barrage and other projects during her forthcoming visit to Japan, reports UNB.
Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to pay a week-long visit to Japan from July 1 in quest of more investment for Bangladesh from the economic superpower.
An expenditure of Tk 18,000 crore has been estimated for the construction of Ganges barrage. Japan, the largest donor of Bangladesh, has been extending financial support to a large number of huge projects in various sectors including communication, health, rural development, energy, industry, construction of cyclone centres and social infrastructure.
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Arsenic detected in water from 68 deep tubewells in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, June 10: Arsenic contamination has been detected in the water of 68 deep tubewells in four thanas of the district.
The number of affected tubewells is 18 in Barisal Sadar, 12 in Uzirpur, 25 in Agailjhara and 13 in Gournadi thanas.
Dr Sibatos Roy of the Dhaka Community Hospital Trust earlier examined the water of nearly 150 deep tubewells of Barisal region and sent the test reports to the Civil Surgeon of Barisal. This report reveals that the water of 68 deep tubewells is arsenic contaminated, the ratio of which is 0.05 milligram per litre.
The civil surgeon visited the arsenic affected areas with a team of doctors and health workers today.
The civil surgeon has advised the people, who have used the water of these tubewells, to see doctors for treatment immediately.

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Israel to keep Jordan Valley, all of Jerusalem, says Netanyahu
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\$250m lost in financial scandal: Investors sue Indian central bank
DSE index continues to fall on lower volume
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BNP walks out as JS adopts amended Rules of Procedure

Opposition BNP staged a walkout last night as the Jatiya Sangsad adopted amendments to the Rules of Procedure allowing formation of parliamentary standing committees with non-minister MPs as chairmen, reports UNB.
After a lengthy debate on the report submitted last month by the Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure, the House adopted the amendments at 10:15 pm without accepting any amendment moved by the opposition members.
Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, who earlier sought the Chair's permission for explaining their note of dissent, led the walkout when Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid put the report on vote.
After Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru criticised the arguments of opposition lawmakers in favour of their amend-

ment proposals, Chowdhury stood to make his point. But the Chair went on to finish his job. As soon as the Speaker gave the report on voice vote, the BNP members sprang to their feet and walked out. When Hamid adjourned the House, the opposition members were still leaving the House.
Just after the Deputy Speaker asked the Law Minister to propose the House to consider the Standing Committee report, Badruddoza Chowdhury said he himself, Khandaker Delwar Hossain and M K Anwar recorded note of dissent on the report and demanded floor for explaining their points.
Responding, the Law Minister said the note of dissent itself contained the explanation and as per rules, there is no scope for speaking on the subject at this moment.
Our Staff Correspondent adds: The House witnessed a two-hour debate and discussion before adopting the amendments.
In the almost identical amendments proposed by the BNP lawmakers, they favoured expansion of the size of standing committees, comprising 12 members each instead of 10, and also proportionate accommodation of MPs belonging to different parties in each committee. Twenty-five BNP members placed a total of 90 amendments.
Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid gave floor to all the BNP lawmakers, who proposed amendments, to speak for two to four minutes each. Later all the proposed amendments were rejected by the House through voice vote.
Proposing endorsement of the JS committee report, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru argued that propor-

Production cost to go up, fear officials Govt fails to monitor financial activities of 4 foreign oil cos

Star Report
The government is failing to effectively monitor the financial activities of the four foreign oil exploration companies operating in Bangladesh.
Official sources said this could cause oil and gas production costs of these companies rise unexpectedly.
Monitoring of the foreign oil companies' financial activities is poorly done. These companies are spending a lot of money unnecessarily, an official said. "Since all the costs incurred by these companies are recoverable, it is likely that their production cost will be higher."
The companies operate under five Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) for eight exploration blocks in Sylhet, Chittagong, the Hill Tracts and different parts of the Bay of Bengal. The five PSCs were signed between 1994 and 1997.
For each of the five PSCs, the government has a six-member Joint Review Committee (JRC) comprising three Petrobangla officials and three representatives of the oil company concerned. The committees, which are PSC "watchdogs," review PSC work plans and budgets. These are meant to meet every three months but often do not, sources concerned pointed out.
In the absence of proper monitoring, the foreign companies are following their own recruitment policies. Consequently, they have unnecessarily appointed a number of highly-paid expatriates.
"According to the PSCs, the oil companies should try to appoint local workers in preference to foreigners and hire expatriates only when people with particular skills are not available in Bangladesh," one source said. "But unfortunately they are appointing foreigners for even the common posts."
An expatriate is usually paid 10 times compared to a local person of similar rank.
"In other developing countries, governments strictly supervise the recruitment policy of the foreign companies and warn them to cut down the number of expatriates when it is necessary to keep production costs at a reasonable level," the source added. "But we are not."
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Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding budgetary allocation of eight per cent of the national income for education sector. — Star photo

Stormy debate in Parliament Indian agencies active: BNP Allegations baseless: AL

By Staff Correspondent
The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday witnessed a brief but stormy debate on the reported operation in the country by two Indian agencies — the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
Opposition lawmakers alleged that offices of the two organisations were opened in the cities of Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna and that the CBI has interrogated some former army officials here.
On the other hand, the Treasury bench members termed all these allegations as totally baseless and politically motivated.
Opening the debate, KM Obaidur Rahman of BNP strongly condemned, what he said, opening of the RAW and CBI offices in the country.
Quoting a press report, he said no independent country could allow such practices. Members of the ruling Awami League, shouted to protest the Opposition MP's allegations while the Chair advised the MP to submit his contention to him in writing.
Obaid also protested the recent landing of an Indian helicopter on Bangladesh territory.
In reply, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed told the House that the press report on the setting up of offices by the RAW and CBI were untrue and totally baseless. However, on landing of the Indian helicopter, the minister said the Foreign Ministry has lodged a strong protest against the matter with the Indian government.
Referring to the reply by the Indian authorities, he said it was nothing unusual that an aircraft could land anywhere in case of emergency or by mistake.
In this regard, he mentioned that a STOL aircraft carrying him mistakenly landed at Karimganj in India when he was the political secretary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
In a counter allegation, the Industries Minister said an Indian helicopter landed in Sorail (in Brahmanbaria) during the BNP government of Khaleda Zia. But the BNP government could not dare to protest that incident.
Amidst shouts by the BNP lawmakers, Tofael added arms stamped with Bangladesh's name were recovered from Pusa S M Akram (AL).
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JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf
During a stormy debate in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid asked BNP lawmaker Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain "What does CBI mean?"
A prompt Akbar, blasting the government for allegedly allowing the Indian agency to operate in the country, replied, "CBI stands for Central Bureau of Investigation. It's an Indian organisation."
"Oh I see. I did not know about it. You know it well," was the witty reply from the Chair.
While criticising Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, who earlier accused BNP of bringing unfounded allegations involving India, Akbar remarked, "I wish Tofael becomes a minister of the central government of India."
In reply, the Deputy Speaker advised the Opposition MP, "You may propose his name and try to send him (to India)."
Participating in the debate on reported operation of two Indian agencies in Bangladesh, Awami League lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta criticised
See Page 12 Col 3

Budget should aim at tax reform, says FICCI chief

By Rafiq Hasan
President of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Mahub Jamil said the new budget should focus on tax reform and it should stop burdening investors with high duties and tariffs.
In an interview with the Daily Star, Jamil, also the Managing Director of Singer Bangladesh Ltd, said that FICCI hopes that the budget would be business friendly and growth-oriented. "We would like to see the government encourage foreign investment by introducing a swap window and a non-trade related forward exchange market," he noted.
With the ruling party's second budget only days away, Mahub Jamil said the government should implement a comprehensive tax system, punish tax evaders and increase efforts to collect the goods and services tax. He said these measures would end the government's dependence on import duties for income.
As the present duties and tariffs on a number of items are irrational they discourage in-



Mahub Jamil

centives for the local electronic assembling plants and factories to make their product more competitive with that of imported electronic items. Jamil said the duty on completely knocked down (CKD) electronic items should be further lowered.
This would also save valuable foreign currency as importers would hesitate to import completely built electronic items if the local plant can provide the same product at a competitive price, he added.
Urging the government to consider total exemption of any duties on new capital machinery, he said this kind of incentives would help attract local as well as foreign investors to invest more and would check importation of low quality second hand, reconditioned capital machinery.
He also demanded reduction of duties on new cars and buses for a clean environment.
Jamil also said the government should streamline foreign investment procedures. He said the government should set up a
See Page 12 Col 8

Opposition MPs can head JS bodies: AL

The ruling Awami League may not have any reservation on making opposition MPs as chairman of some parliamentary standing committees, reports UNB.
Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was learnt to have indicated this in the meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) held at Sangshad Bhaban yesterday.
A meeting source said the Prime Minister told the party MPs that if the opposition parties wanted, she would have no objection to giving them chairmanship of some of the standing committees.
Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria and Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta also spoke at the meeting, chaired by Sheikh Hasina.
The Prime Minister called upon the party MPs to correctly project the economic successes achieved during the 10 months of Awami League rule in their deliberations on budget.
She said success of last 21 years can be challenged by the achievements that have taken place during last 10 months of Awami League government.
Referring to this season's bumper harvest, the Prime Minister directed her party MPs to see that the farmers of their respective areas get fair price for their produce.
Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria said economic condition is better now compared to last 21 years. "Inflation is well under control," and both the World Bank and IMF have expressed their satisfaction over the country's economic progress."
He said growth rate increased to 5.7 from 5.5 and pre-budget dialogue was held with different professional bodies and political parties.
BSS adds: The ruling party will launch an orientation course for its members of Parliament on the national budget.
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RU reopens today as strike continues

From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, June 10: The classes of Rajshahi University will resume tomorrow on the end of a 58-day summer vacation amid the continued strike being enforced by the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and pro-Jamaat teachers.
Only a few students were seen on the campus till this evening. Policemen have been deployed at the entrances to all residential halls to verify the identity cards of students.
Meanwhile, the university authorities have announced a 7-point code of conduct for the students with the aim of maintaining law and order on the campus. Under the code of conduct, only residential students can reside in the dormitories, all students must carry identity cards, gates of the halls will be closed at 10 pm, carrying arms and explosives is prohibited, prior permission of proctor will have to be taken for any procession and meeting and police can search any vehicle and question any person inside the campus.
The members of the Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) have vowed to take classes from tomorrow and termed the strike called by the rival VUCA as illegal.
The Vice Chancellor, Prof Abdul Khaleque held a meeting with the student organisations
See Page 12 Col 2

Plainclothes policemen deployed on CU campus

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 10: Plainclothes policemen have been deployed on Chittagong University campus to nab trouble-makers, official sources said.
Campus sources said, classes were held today amid a tense situation.
The situation on the university campus has become explosive following recent clashes between two rival groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League.
The University Syndicate imposed a ban on holding rallies and processions, and chanting provocative slogans after the clashes.
But three student organisations — the JCD, Shibir and Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya — yesterday defied the ban by bringing out separate processions to protest the decision of the Syndicate.
Paribesh Parishad JCD to boycott meet with DU VC today
By DU Correspondent
The Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury will meet the leaders of different student organisations today.
The meeting will discuss issues including the DUCSU election and the law and order situation in the university.
According to official sources, the Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has not accepted the invitation to attend the meeting.
The JCD also boycotted the last meeting demanding resignation of the Proctor of the University Dr Nur-Un-Nabi.

Proceedings of Bangabandhu murder case stayed again

By Staff Correspondent
The proceedings of the Bangabandhu murder case in the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, yesterday were stayed till June 19.
Earlier, the proceedings were stayed by the High Court till June 12 for hearing of the criminal revision petition challenging the charge framed against Zobaeda Rashid, an accused.
Of the 20 accused in the case, the five in jail custody were
See Page 12 Col 3

Meherpur BCL activist killed

From Our Correspondent
MEHERPUR, June 10: An activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League, Amjad Hossain, was killed allegedly by two JCD workers here yesterday evening.
Witnesses said, Minto and his friend called Amjad out of his house and hacked him to death on the road in Hotel Bazar area of the town.
Enmity between the two sides was the cause of the murder, sources said.
The Awami and Jubo League workers brought out a procession condemning the killing.

Shop looted, owner assaulted at Katabon in city

By Staff Correspondent
A group of unidentified young men attacked a confectionery shop and assaulted its owner at the Katabon market near the Dhaka University campus yesterday afternoon.
According to the local people, a few rounds of gunshots were also heard following the incident at about 5:30 pm.
The local people alleged that a group of youths from the DU campus took food from the confectionery shop and were leaving without paying money. The young men went on the rampage when they were asked
See Page 12 Col 3

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bureau of Manpower Employment & Training
89/2, Kakrail, Dhaka
No-ES-GEN-505/1004 Dated: 9.6.97
Corrigendum
Notice for Employment of Workers in Kuwait
The date of interview for the post of Vehicle Mechanic and Turret Technician of M/s TecEquipment Ltd, PO Box-4679, Safat, Kuwait will be held on 17th & 18th June, 1997 instead of 17th & 18th July 1997 in the Bureau of Manpower, Employment & Training, 89/2, Kakrail, Dhaka.
Mahabubur Rahman
D-702 Director (Employment & Welfare)