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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina replying to questions in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. — PID photo

### PM refutes allegations in JS

## Only one BNP MP found in cyclone-hit areas

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has taken steps to build more 2,000 cyclone shelters and dwelling houses for the homeless people in the cyclone-prone coastal districts, reports UNB.

She spelt out the government's plan, responding to a question from Awami League MP Jalaluddin Talukder during the Prime Minister's time in Parliament.

Hasina said finished barracks have already been constructed to accommodate 70 families in St. Martin's Island rendered homeless by the May 19 cyclone.

The Prime Minister said she would visit the island today to see the newly constructed barracks built by Navy with the help of local people.

Similar housing projects have been undertaken for the homeless people in Anwara, Banashkhali, Moheshkhali, Kutubdia and other cyclone and flood prone areas, she informed the House.

Referring to the pre-cyclone steps of the government, Hasina said she cancelled her trip to Spain and had personally supervised the rescue and relief

operation. She said ministers, MPs, Awami League leaders, members of the Armed Forces, volunteers and the government machinery were engaged in advance to minimise the casualty. The Prime Minister said so far the government has distributed cash and relief materials worth Tk 30,72,54,780 among the affected people.

She said although the government did not officially seek any foreign aid, many friendly countries and agencies voluntarily sent succour worth about Tk 5,13,04,754 for the cyclone victims.

Asked if the opposition MPs were involved in the relief work, the Prime Minister told BNP MP Prof Shahidul Islam that none except Fazul Azim of Hatia was found when she visited cyclone affected Kutubdia, Maheshkhali and Cox's Bazar.

Quoting Fazul Azim of BNP, Hasina said human casualty was less this time following the timely steps taken by the government.

She refuted the allegation of the opposition MP that relief operation was not conducted in many affected areas.

Instead of putting any question, another BNP lawmaker Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmad rose to say that the Prime Minister's statement about the absence of opposition MPs and relief materials distributed in the affected areas after the cyclone was untrue.

Sheikh Hasina said the ministers engaged in the relief operations personally distributed relief materials among the victims.

Responding to Jatiya Party MP Rustam Ali Faraji, she said they did not have time to form a national committee involving all the political parties, because the government was busy in the affected areas.

At one stage, the BNP legislators tried to draw the attention of the Speaker and raised a bit of hue and cry when the Prime Minister was making a lengthy statement going out of the printed text.

Although there were five questions in the Prime Minister's time in parliament, the scheduled 15 minutes' time was over replying to the first question along with four supplementary questions, giving no chance to raise the other four questions.

## UN peacekeepers to get \$50,000 each for death, disability

NEW YORK, June 10: A United Nations committee in charge of administrative and budgetary matters has approved a resolution, setting up uniform and standardised compensation rates for death and disability for UN peacekeepers, reports UNB.

Under the new arrangement, each peace-keeper, irrespective of the country of origin, will receive a one-time lump sum award of 50,000 US dollars for death during a UN peacekeeping operation. The same amount of compensation will be paid to peacekeepers for losing both arms, legs or eyes.

The decision, approved by the UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) will now go to the General Assembly which is expected to approve it later this month.

The Assembly is also expected to seek assurances from troop contributing countries that payments to beneficiaries should not be less than the amount specified in the UN resolution.

The question of compensation, which is presently determined by the UN through bilateral arrangements with troop contributing countries, has been hotly debated.

Many developing countries had in the past complained that the arrangements were discriminatory as rich nations were allowed to receive higher compensation for their peacekeepers.

### Minister tells JS Govt considers 4 long-term plans to meet water shortage in city

The government is considering four long-term plans to produce at least 110 crore litres of drinking water per day for Dhaka Metropolitan city, reports UNB.

This was disclosed in Parliament yesterday by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, replying to a question from Dr M Rustam Ali Faraji (Jatiya Party-Projpur).

Zillur Rahman said the daily requirement of water in Dhaka, a city of 90 lakh people with a growth rate of seven per cent, is 130 crore litres while the actual supply is only 85 crore litres.

As per the short-term plans, 15 new deep tubewells will be installed and 14 replaced within two years under the Interim Project-3 to produce an additional nine crore litres of water per day.

Another 48 crore litres of water will be produced by installing 81 new tubewells and replacing 40 tubewells under the Interim Project-4, to be completed in 1999.

### PM: Japan visit

From Page 1

Japan has provided 200 million US dollars for construction of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, envisaging a total cost of 700 million US dollars.

It also extended financial assistance for construction of Sitalakha bridge, Meghna bridge, Meghna-Gumti bridge, Chittagong Steel Mills, Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company and cyclone centres.

During the visit, Hasina will hold official talks with her Japanese counterpart Ryutaro Hashimoto, covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

The two Prime Ministers will review bilateral relations, particularly in economic cooperation and trade and devise means to bolster Dhaka-Tokyo ties in all fields, officials sources said. In this context, they will focus on Asia-Pacific region where trade and economic activities are being multiplied in the aftermath of the Cold War.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister will have an audience with Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko.

Her visit to Japan will also be featured by holding of a roundtable conference with the business magnates and industrialists and a seminar on investment.

She is expected to see industrial complexes in and outside Tokyo and give interview to representatives of Japanese news media.

### Stormy debate in JS

From Page 1

rule in India during Khaleda's rule. The then prime minister, Khaleda Zia, promised to inform the parliament on the issue after investigation, he said and regretted that she did not do so later.

"But our government will investigate into the matter," he told the House amid desk-thumping by his Treasury bench colleagues.

Taking the floor again, KM Obaid asked Tofael why the government did not protest the press report (on setting up of RAW and CBI offices) had it been untrue. He also asked if the government had permitted those agencies to operate in the country and demanded formation of a parliamentary committee to probe the issue.

On the Purulia arms drop issue, the BNP lawmaker commented that the Bangladesh government had nothing to do with an incident taking place outside its territory.

Rising again, Tofael Ahmed claimed to have protested the

South Asian nations, including Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, have strongly criticised the UN for such discriminatory practices.

Last month, at a meeting of the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly which looks after administrative and budgetary matters, these countries demanded equal treatment for all peacekeepers.

At present, over 23,000 soldiers and military personnel from 71 countries are serving in 16 peacekeeping operations. Pakistan tops the list with over 1,700 troops, followed by Bangladesh with over 1,100 soldiers.

### Over Tk 1 lakh snatched, two businessmen stabbed in city

Armed miscreants snatched more than Tk 1 lakh and stabbed two businessmen in separate incidents in the city yesterday, police said, reports UNB.

Hide trader Imran Patwari came under attack when he came out of Janata Bank Motijheel branch after encashing Tk 100,000 at about 12:30 pm.

They stabbed him snatched the money and fled the scene by a waiting scooter.

Meanwhile, Mizanur Rahman, a fish trader of New Market, was stabbed and robbed of Tk 7,000 in Azimpur New Paltan area while going to his shop at about 7 am.

Both the injured businessmen were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Separate cases were filed.

### 20 Jubo League activists hurt in factional clash

SIRAJGANJ, June 10: At least 20 activists of the Jubo League were injured in an intra-party clash in the town today, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

The clash began when Jubo League Joint Secretary Zahurul Islam Jhantu protested the alleged misconduct of Mannan of the youth wing at Kopsdaspura at 8:30 am. Jhantu received serious injury in the clash.

Of the injured, Jhantu, Habibur, Suruzzaman, Hafizul Afsar, Mannan, Aslam and Mukul were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital. Two cases were filed with local police.

### JS Business Advisory body meet held

A meeting of the business advisory committee of the Jatiya Sangsad was held at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday with chairman of the committee, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury in chair, reports UNB.

The meeting discussed the duration of the fifth JS session, presentation of the budget and time for discussion, question-answer session and other parliamentary affairs.

Important national issues that may be placed before the House during the budget session also came up for discussion, according to a press release of the Parliament Secretariat.

### BNP walks out

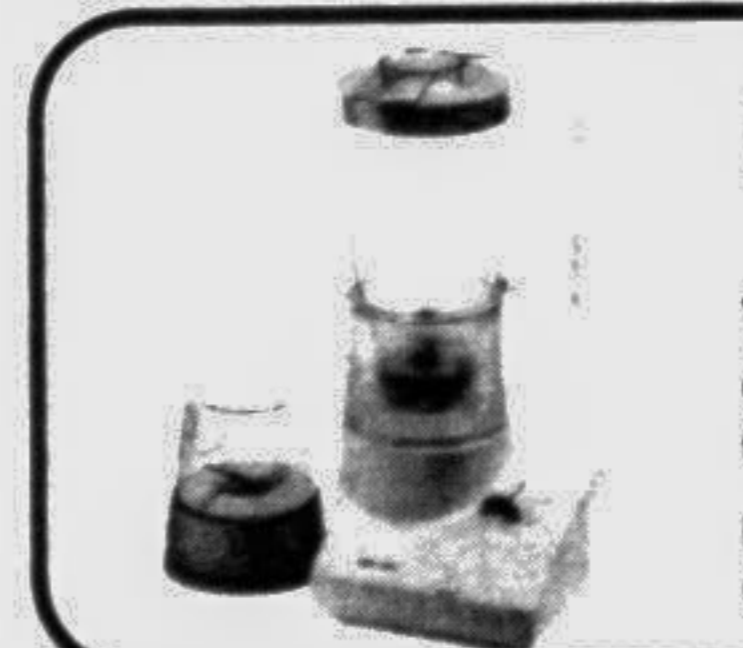
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and India and said that except in the cases of very prominent issues, there were no such bindings that the standing committees are to have proportionate representation of parties.

About expansion of the size of the committees, Abdul Matin Khasru said, in 35 committees on ministries all the 330 MPs could be accommodated keeping the size of each as 10-member body.

He assured the House that in practice, there would be 'proportionate allocation' of membership of the committees and some of those could also be headed by Opposition MPs.

About BNP lawmakers' allegation of delay in the formation of standing committees, the minister said it took eight months during the tenure of the Fifth Parliament to form committees and in the present case, BNP had so far not given the names of other representatives though they had been requested for the same four times.



## Blender with mill

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## BA launches new campaign to boost corporate image

By Staff Correspondent  
British Airways yesterday launched a package of programmes directed to radically improve its corporate image. It also introduced a new logo.

The campaign is accompanied by a six billion pound sterling investment over a three-year period to improve services, products, aircraft, facilities and training.

Worldwide festivities were held simultaneously in over 160 places in 63 countries, including Dhaka, yesterday evening.

British Airways used a half-hour state of the art video show beamed via satellite worldwide to launch the 'new strategic direction and radical new identity.' The programme began at 1200 hours GMT (6 pm BST) and was produced from a central London studio. It showed live scenes of British Airways events around the globe. A cross-section of people were present at the Dhaka Sheraton Ball Room to witness the unfurling of the new corporate image and logo.

The evening started with the 65-member British Airways staff in Dhaka singing in chorus 'All about sharing... all about caring' composed by Leslie Lezz' Lewis of Colonial Cousins' fame.

British Airways also launched a 'Silver Lining' charity for the Ahsania Mission to collect contributions for the destitute children. The Airlines has already donated four million pounds sterling, collected from its passengers to UNICEF for the cause of children.

Peter Chandra, Regional Business Manager of Asia-Pacific, Alex Lastra, CSO Madrid Airport and Ms Ashraf Ali of British Airways, Dhaka addressed the gathering.

### JP to play effective role of opposition

The Jatiya Party decided to play an effective role of opposition during the budget session of Parliament, which began yesterday, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at the Parliamentary Party meeting of Jatiya Party.

Party Chairman H M Ershad presided over the meeting, held at the party office in Sangsad Bhaban.

The party MPs reaffirmed full confidence in the leadership of Ershad, JP Whip Advocate Fazle Rabbi told journalists after the meeting.

### 650 more ideal villages to be set up

The government will set up additional 650 ideal villages at a cost of Tk 260 crore to rehabilitate the landless and destitute under the second phase of Ideal Village Project, reports UNB.

Land Secretary Syed Margub Murshed stated this at a meeting of the high powered 'Ideal Village Development Fund Committee' held at Ideal Village Project Bhaban here yesterday.

The Commission for European Union (CEU) will provide 60 per cent of the total expenditure of the project and the rest amount would be provided by Bangladesh government.

### Oil cos

From Page 1

doing that.

He pointed out that there are skilled human resources in the country who could work for these companies if their recruitment policies were strictly monitored.

There is a PSC provision for foreign companies to train Petrobangla's workers, which is still to be implemented. "Not a single official has been trained by these foreign companies... instead, one of the general managers of Petrobangla quit his job to join one of these companies."

The source noted that one of the important aspects of the PSCs is the strengthening of Petrobangla as an institution for the supervision of gas and oil exploration, development and management. "But if Petrobangla officials do not get any training now, it will be difficult for the government to manage the gas fields developed by the foreign companies in the future."

The JRCs will turn into Joint Management Committee's when a gas field like Sangu-1 or Jalalabad begins commercial production from the first quarter of the next year.

The foreign oil companies are: Cairn (UK), Occidental (US), UMC and Rexwood-Okland. Cairn discovered Sangu-1 gas well in the Bay of Bengal and is now working in Chittagong and the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Occidental has begun drilling a well in Jalalabad, Sylhet. UMC signed a PSC for exploration deeper in the hill tracts and Rexwood-Okland is to explore the Bay of Bengal near Teknaf and St Martin's Island.



People beating an alleged snatcher in Purana Paltan area in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## MOUs signed for jt venture cement factories

The entrepreneurs of Bangladesh and India signed two memorandums of understanding (MOUs) in the city yesterday to set up two cement factories in both the countries, reports BSS.

The two joint ventures projects, each with 100,000 tonnes production capacity per year, will be established in Bangladesh and India with a view to meeting demands of the two countries.

Kaushal Kumbhat, Director of the Indus Cements Limited of Guwahati in Assam of India, and Ashraf Ibn Noor, Chairman of the Future Trade (Bangladesh) Limited, signed a MOU to set up their cement factory either in Rajshahi or Sylhet.

Capt Imran Anwar Hossain, Managing Director of Bengal Tiger Cement Industries Limited of Bangladesh, and S K Lato of the Narphu Cements Limited of Meghalaya in India, signed the other MOU to set up their cement factory in Meghalaya of India.

The MOU signing ceremony was held at the DCCI auditorium.

### Electronic goods

From Page 1

can buy a 21-inch colour TV in China for as little as USD 150. But the same item is valued at USD 308 in our customs books," said an importer at the stadium market.

Other traders also complained about the tariff, which, they said, was disproportionate. They said, a one-and-a-half tonne air conditioner was available in China for USD 180, but its customs book value here was USD 480.

This also applied to all other electronic items like fridges, calculators, microwave ovens, CD players and cassette recorders, they said.

According to them, once the tariff was revised and properly classified, prices would fall further and the buyers would be benefitted.

## Notice

### Committee for National Education Policy Making NAEM, Dhaka

The work of the Committee for National Education Policy Making formed by the Government is at the final stage. The committee has, in the meantime, held meetings at Dhaka as well as all Divisional headquarters and arranged for receiving opinions of all concerned including professionals' organisations & NGOs. Moreover, any interested person or organisation can send their valued opinions on National Education Policy. It is requested to send written opinions to the undermentioned address of the committee office by 15 June, 1997.

Prof M Shamsul Haque

Chairman

Committee for National Education

Policy Making

National Academy for Education

Management (NAEM)

Dhanmondi, Dhaka

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## Barisal jail revolt: 40 chargesheeted

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 10: Charge sheets framed against 25 prisoners and 15 'hajatees' in connection with the revolt in the Barisal jail in 1996 were submitted to the court of the 1st class magistrate Monoj Kanti Baral here today.

They were charged with committing anti-state activities, harassing govt officers and damaging public property said IO of the case Abdul Mannan, OC, Kotwali thana.

Nearly 250 inmates of the Barisal jail revolted on December 19, 1996. The jail guards, however, brought the situation under control within an hour.

Jailor Abdul Mannan Khan filed the case against the prisoners involved in the incident the following day.

## Telelinks yet to be restored

The partial disruption in telecommunications between the capital and other districts continued for the second day yesterday as the faulty NWD exchange in Dhaka could not be made fully operative, reports UNB.

The inter-district telecommunications through analogue phones and digital numbers beginning with digit '8' in the city were hampered due to a technical fault in one of the two NWD exchanges since Monday afternoon.

T&T Board has taken alternative measures so that emergency NWD calls could be made through the exchange which is operative.

## JS bodies

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Finance Minister will explain the outlines of the national budget for the fiscal year 1997-98 in the orientation course, expected to begin immediately after the announcement of the budget.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, State Minister for Planning, Civil Aviation and Tourism Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and leading economists of the country will also give the outlines of the budget to train up Treasury Bench MPs so that they (MPs) can defend it, Suranjit said.

## Trade ties with India to be strengthened: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed her hope that the existing trade, commerce and business relations between Bangladesh and India would grow further through mutual initiatives, reports BSS.

Talking to the members of a visiting Indian trade delegation, who called on her at her parliament office yesterday, Sheikh Hasina said this visit would expedite the special trade and business relations.

The 42-member delegation of the Federation of Industries of north-eastern region of India is now in Bangladesh on a four-day visit under the leadership of its president H S Kumbhat.

The Prime Minister said whatever resources we have, we want to make its best utilisation for the betterment of our people. She said, "We can cooperate in many more ways for the welfare of the two peoples."

Kumbhat discussed various aspects of Indian trade and business involvement in Bangladesh. He showed eagerness to further develop and expand the trade and commercial relations between the two countries.

Members of the delegation who called on the Prime Minister included S C Agarwala, S K Jain, Maushal Kumbhat, K Lato, and R Dutta.

President of Bangladesh Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Yusuf Abdullah Harun was also present.

## Rebels gun down 17 in Tripura

NEW DELHI, June 10: Tribal guerrillas today gunned down 17 people in an ambush in the north-eastern Indian state of Tripura, United News of India (UNI) reported, says AFP.

About 20 others were injured in the attack at Chawmanu in Dhalai district, the news agency said.

The victims were travelling in two vehicles when the militants opened fire from a hill top.

## RU reopens

From Page 1

He sought cooperation from the student organisations in maintaining peaceful academic atmosphere on the campus.

Excepting Chhatra Shibir, all other student organisations attended the meeting.

## Bangabandhu

From Page 1

produced in the court yesterday. They are: Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farouk Rahman, Lt Col (relieved) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, former state minister for information Taheruddin Thakur, Lt Col Muhiuddin Ahmed, Acting Director, BNCC, Dhaka and Capt (Hon) Abdul Wahab Joarder.

Zobaida Rashid, wife of Lt Col (dismissed) A Rashid Khondaker, another accused, was granted bail by the Supreme Court. She was represented by her lawyers yesterday.

The 15 other accused are being tried in absentia. They were represented by state defence.

The proceedings of the case yesterday began at about 11:45 am and continued for about an hour. Later the accused were allowed to meet their relatives present in the court room.

Zobaida Rashid's lawyer Mahbubur Rahman prayed for adjournment of the proceedings for 30 days, to which the prosecution disagreed.

The judge consulted both the defence and the prosecution sides and fixed the next date.

## Shop looted

From Page 1

to pay the bill. They hit Mosharrar Hossain, the owner of the shop, with a pistol, damaged glasses, furniture and looted Tk 5,000 from the cash box.

An agency report said, the youngsters demanded toll from the shop. They went wild as the shopkeeper tried to catch them.

A policeman on-duty in Katabon area said a police team had rushed to the spot. None was arrested in this connection till last night, he added.

## JS snippet

From Page 1

Jamaat MP Delwar Hossain Saidee for speaking against India on the floor of the House while hanging an Indian shawl by the neck after visiting that country.

At this, Akbar Hossain himself, wearing an Indian shawl in the same manner, sprang to his feet to get the floor.

As the Deputy Speaker asked him if his name was mentioned by the AL MP, Akbar was seen showing his shawl and nodding head in the affirmative.

Given the floor, Akbar said, "Nothing is written on my shawl... but the Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif wears a black coat (pointing his fingers at the black Mujib coat-worn by AL lawmakers)."