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The World on Time



A section of the police contingent standing near the gate of Suryasen Hall of Dhaka University during a raid at the hall yesterday. — Star photo

### PM visits St Martin's Island Barrack-type houses handed over to 10 landless families

ST MARTIN'S ISLAND, June 11: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today handed over the allotment letters of the newly-built houses to 10 cyclone-affected landless families of the tiny island, unveiling a government scheme for rebuilding the shattered homes of coastal people, reports UNB.

The families were housed under a project called Ashrayan (sheltering) being first implemented at St Martin's, Bangladesh's extreme south-eastern tip of land territory, to provide 70 landless families affected by May 19 cyclone with houses.

In phases, the project will be extended to other parts of the country's coastal belt, including cyclone-affected Anwara, Bashkhali, Satkania, and Lohagara thanas of Chittagong district.

The idea of Ashrayan project was mooted by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina herself.

Addressing a spontaneous gathering, Sheikh Hasina said her government is committed to doing everything for the betterment of people's socio-economic condition.

Under the Ashrayan project, each of the affected families will be given a room 10x9 feet with two verandas in one unit of a barrack-type house constructed on elevated plinth with CI sheet to contain 10 such rooms for accommodating 10 families. Each family will get

243 square-foot floor space. Besides, one tubewell, four toilets and two bathrooms will be shared by all the 10 families of the barracks. For construction of the first unit of low-cost housing, 51 bundles of CI sheet were used. In addition, a cost of Tk 2 lakh was involved.

The engineering unit of Bangladesh navy is carrying out construction works at personal initiative and directives of the Prime Minister given on May 22 when she visited the off-shore island after the cyclone hit the tiny island of 4.2 square-mile area inhabited by 4,000 people.

At St Martin's Island, 72 families lost their homes in the sea, homes of 78 were totally damaged and 288 partially by the cyclone. Number of families living in the island is 657.

### Sayeedi

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Counsel Islam further submitted that the High Court could not interfere into the judgement of the election tribunal before the disposal of the appeal.

Earlier, on June 5, a High Court division bench granted an ad-interim stay order upon the judgement of the Pirojpur district election tribunal declaring the election of Jamaat MP Delwar Hossain Sayeedi as illegal and void. The High Court also issued rule nisi upon the respondents to show cause as to why the operation of the judgement of the tribunal should not be stayed while admitting the appeal challenging the judgement of the election tribunal filed by Delwar Hossain Sayeedi.

The election tribunal on May 19 delivered its judgement setting aside the election of the Garghata Government Primary School polling centre under Nazirpur police station of Pirojpur-1 constituency.

### HC directs

From Page 1

by society and they have right to stay in their profession."

He said if the sex workers mixed in society, such sort of eviction could not bring any wellbeing to it (society).

Appearing before the court on behalf of the government, Assistant Attorney General Kaiser Uddin Ahmed prayed time for written reply by the government. The court directed that it be filed on Monday.

### JCD walks out

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The JCD walked out protesting the proctor's presence at the meeting.

The JCD is demanding his resignation. The leaders of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and the Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), a forum of some left leaning student bodies, attended the meeting which discussed the law and order situation on campus.

The VC told the meeting that the law and order situation in the university has improved following the introduction of the checking system in the residential halls.

The leaders of both BCL and GCO demanded immediate dissolution of the DUCSU body and announcement of the schedule for DUCSU election.

The VC said he would take a decision after talks with JCD leaders.

### Police raid 3 DU halls: No arms recovered

Police yesterday conducted a surprise raid on three residential halls of Dhaka University but could not recover any arms or ammunition, reports UNB.

Police, ringed the Ziaur Rahman, Mohsin and Surya Sen halls at about 2 pm and continued their search for arms and arms holders till 4 pm. None was arrested.

Later, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally in front of Surya Sen Hall protesting the raid.

Addressing the rally, the JCD leaders condemned the university authorities for harassing the general students by conducting such 'unnecessary' raids.

The rally was addressed by Mosharraf Hossain, Selimuzaman Selim and Ali Haider Milton.

### Procurement prices of rice, paddy fixed

The government has fixed the targets of procuring two lakh tonnes of paddy and 1.20 lakh tonnes of rice during the current season to keep stable the market prices of foodgrains and provide incentives as well as fair price to the farmers, reports BSS.

An official handout last night said that the procurement price of per quintal paddy was fixed at Taka 700 and per quintal rice at Taka 1,100.

The procurement drive, which started on May 7 last, will continue upto August 12 next. The government will buy 1,66,896 tonnes of paddy and 80,645 tonnes of rice from the farmers and rice millers of Rajshahi division during the period.

Besides, 5,753 tonnes of paddy and 18,000 tonnes of rice, 1,061 tonnes of paddy and 19,997 tonnes of rice and 14,220 tonnes of paddy and 1,058 tonnes of rice will be procured from farmers and rice millers of Khulna, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions respectively during the season.

The handout also said that 2,070 tonnes of paddy and 300 tonnes of rice would be procured from farmers and rice millers of Barisal division.

### ADP

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social welfare, women and youth development, labour and man power, health, agriculture) will get Tk 2,352.59 crore, of which Tk 1,205 crore will be local currency. The sector will get 20.5 per cent of the ADP allocation.

For the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, Tk 693 crore has been allocated, of which Tk 428 crore has been sanctioned from project aid. The transport sector will receive a total of Tk 1,572.66 crore including Tk 702.66 crore project aid. Allocation for the sector is 13.7 per cent of the ADP.

A total of Tk 1,472.68 crore has been sanctioned for power sector, of which Tk 519.80 crore is from project aid. The sector has a share of 4.7 per cent of the ADP.

The allocation for agricultural sector has been proposed at Tk 2,652.22 crore, of which Tk 1,245 crore is local currency component. The sector's share is 23.1 per cent of the ADP.

For water supply, sanitation and housing in the rural areas, a total allocation of Tk 870.08 crore has been proposed, of which Tk 419.93 in local currency.

An allocation of Tk 1,131.78 crore has been proposed in the new ADP for family planning and family welfare. Of the amount, project aid comprises Tk 691.78 crore. The sector will get 10 per cent of the ADP allocation.

## Public participation in formulating national budget stressed

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday stressed the need for public participation in the formulation and execution of the national budget.

The seminar on 'The Process of Formulating the National Budget in the Perspective of Poverty Alleviation' was organised by the Institute for Development Policy Analysts and Advocacy (IDPAA). It was held at the Development and Planning Academy Auditorium.

The Executive Director of Proshika and Chairperson of ADAB, Dr Kazi Faruque Ahmed presided over the seminar. Economists Rehman Sobhan, Anisur Rahman, Ziaur Rahman Khan, MP, Rezaul Karim Hira, MP, The Daily Sangbad's Acting Editor Bazlur Rahman, Jatiya Samajtantrik Party General Secretary Hasnatul Huq Inu and NGO representatives Kulsum Begum and Ajhar Ali took part in the discussion.

Atiur Rahman, a senior research fellow of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), presented the keynote paper.

The two MPs — one from the AL and the other from the BNP — said they did not participate in the preparation of the budget and demanded their greater involvement. Rehman Sobhan said although the country achieved independence in 1971, it had still two classes — the rich and the poor.

He said: "I feel harked nowadays when I am asked to speak at a pre-budget discussion because I know nothing will happen to benefit the poor people and my speech will not con-

### Non-govt teachers' salary Govt to raise its contribution to 100pc

The government is formulating a policy to raise its contribution to 100 per cent towards the salary of teachers in private school, college and madrassah, reports UNB.

Education Minister A S H K Sadique said this in parliament yesterday replying to a question from Dr Rustam Ali Farazi (JP-Pirojpur).

Sadique said the government, in the light of the policy, would decide which school, college or madrassah would be entitled to the facility and when and how it would be implemented.

### Govt plans to update rules for use of ZIA's VIP lounge

The government plans to update the rules for the use of VIP and VIP lounges at the Zia International Airport, reports UNB.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, who is in charge of the Cabinet Division in parliament said this while replying to Hafiz Uddin Ahmed (BNP-Bhola) in the House yesterday.

Tofael informed that the effectiveness of the circular issued by the Cabinet Division on 26 this year allowing the retired secretaries to use the VIP lounge and been suspended.

### JMBA, REB sign MOU

Jamuna Multi-Purpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) and Rural Electrification Board (REB) yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to build up a total power system in the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge project, reports BSS.

The MOU was signed at the headquarters of REB at Joar Sahara near ZIA in presence of Abdul Mueed Chowdhury, Secretary, Jamuna Bridge Division and Brig Enamul Haq, chairman of the board, among others.

## Nat'l budget today

From Page 1

Bangladesh's present revenue-GDP ratio of about 12 per cent is much too low compared to most other developing countries. Dr Mahmud noted that democratic governments can initiate difficult fiscal measures only during the initial years of the tenure and that the fiscal balances deteriorate with the approach of the election year. "This creates what is called the 'political business cycle'. The fiscal record of the last BNP regime conforms to this hypothesis," he said.

Since 1994-95, the government has had to resort to substantial domestic borrowings and similar trends have continued throughout the current fiscal.

The present government is yet to take any new revenue measures. Moreover, it is already committed to implementing new pay scales which will involve a substantial increase in revenue expenditure. The financial experts and donors now wait to see what fiscal stance the government adopts in order to keep the budgetary balances from deteriorating further.

The government's projected expenditure for the new fiscal is over Tk 14,000 crore, up by over Tk 2000 crore from the current fiscal. This increased expenditure, a major portion of which is due to the new pay scale, is now critically viewed by the financial experts since this year's expenditure had to be met through a large government borrowing from the banks.

"In view of the government's continued domestic borrowing, and the decline in foreign aid disbursement, the size of the available resource envelop for the coming year's ADP remains uncertain," said Dr Mahmud. Business circles now strongly feel that the burden of macro-economic stabilisation should not be borne by the private sector alone through a credit squeeze in the private sector because of government borrowing as has happened in the current fiscal.

vice the policymakers." NGO activist Kulsum Begum said the budget exploited the poor and discriminated against the lower classes.

Atiur Rahman said, government officials at the thana and district levels do not involve people when preparing local budgets.

He proposed the government set up an all-party committee to prepare a more effective and transparent budget.

Quoting from a survey report, he said most of the parliamentarians who participated in the study, felt that project executing agencies and officials were not accountable.

### AL city unit to hold rally today

Dhaka City Unit of Bangladesh Awami League will hold a rally in front of the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue here at 4 pm today, reports BSS.

The rally has been organised to mark the people's voting rights day on June 12, a party press release said here last night.

President of Dhaka City Awami League and Mayor of Dhaka City Mohammad Hanif will preside over the rally while central and city Awami League leaders will speak on the occasion.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday felicitated the nation on the occasion of the fulfilment of one year of the historic general election which was held on June 12 last year under a non-party and neutral caretaker government.

### One stabbed in city

By Staff Correspondent  
A group of people stabbed a young man in a slum near the Concord Tower at the Bangla Motor crossing in the city yesterday.

The victim, Kamal, 20, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with serious injuries in his legs, hands and other parts of the body. Police said Kamal, son of one Tota Miah, resided in the slum.

The cause of the attack could not be known immediately. A resident of the slum, Kalu, and some of his accomplices allegedly made the attack.

Tota Miah filed a case with Ramna thana accusing four persons in this connection.

### Touchstone statue recovered

By Staff Correspondent  
JESSORE, June 11: The BDR recovered a touchstone statue of Shivalinga worth about Taka two crore and arrested one person from Baliadanga of Kotwali thana in the district Monday night.

According to BDR, a special patrol party raided the house of one Khokon Khan and recovered the Shivalinga. They also arrested the house-owner.

### Acid thrown

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Five young men of the village made the attack due to enmity between the two sides.

The gang, reportedly led by one Zahuril, threw acid when Beauty and Jharna were sleeping with their grandmother on a window-side bed at about 12 midnight. They were immediately taken to the DMCH.

Daughters of one Abu Zafar, Beauty and Jharna are students of class eight of a high school in Gondopur Hospital sources quoting family members of the victims said, one of the attackers had threatened to kidnap Beauty on Tuesday evening.

Our Narayanjan correspondent reports, Beauty's uncle Abdul Halim filed a case with Rupanjan thana accusing two persons. None was arrested in connection with the incident till last night.

### Hostess Trolley

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Let's make things better



The evicted inmates of Kandupatti brothel in the city staging a sit-in at the main gate of the Supreme Court yesterday demanding their rehabilitation. — Star photo

## PM: New office timing

From Page 1

They thanked the prime minister for announcing the pay scale and urged the prime minister to reduce wage disparity considering the condition of the low-paid employees.

Amidst cheers from the huge gathering sprawling on the floors and balconies of the ICC, the prime minister said there is no need to go for movement for anything as the government is very much aware of the problems of the employees.

Hasina said the government announced new pay scale for officers and employees despite its resource constraint and was trying to provide different facilities considering the problems of the employees.

Highlighting different positive aspects of the new timing, Hasina said: "You are facing some problems for introducing the new timing suddenly, but within a few days, I hope, the problems will be gone."

She said the government is providing more buses, canteens, day-care centre and other facilities for the workers of the Secretariat, the heart of the government.

### Forex reserve

From Page 1

million dollars during first eight months of the current fiscal from 4,431 million dollars during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

Export earnings in first 10 months of the current fiscal was 3,574 million dollars, or a 12.88 per cent increase from 3,166 million dollars during the corresponding period of previous fiscal.

Remittances received during July '96-April '97 was 1,203 million dollars, an 23.51 per cent increase from 974 million dollars during the corresponding period of 1995-96.

Food aid disbursement declined by 41.2 per cent and commodity aid disbursement dropped by 16.36 per cent. However, project aid disbursement registered an increase of 14.37 per cent.

Market prices of certain daily essentials registered significant increase in recent months and prices of some items increased quite significantly since the announcement of the last budget. During the period between July 28, 1996 to April 16, 1997, prices of wheat marked an 27.73 per cent increase, while atta 15.38 per cent and the price of kerosene oil increased by 13.33 per cent.

Revenue collection by the National Board of Revenue during the first 10 months of current fiscal registered an increase of 13.05 per cent over that during the same period last year. The actual collection during the period, however, fell short of the proportionate target by 2.35 per cent. Actual collection amounted to Tk. 9,862.18 crore against the target of Tk 10,098.50 crore.

Non-tax revenue is estimated at Tk 3,095 crore in the current fiscal. But only Tk 2,595 crore (84%) of the targeted amount has been collected.

### Three alleged muggers beaten up in city

By DMC Correspondent

A group of people seriously assaulted three persons suspecting them to be muggers near the Banani graveyard in the city yesterday afternoon.

The injured identified as Badal, 35, an auto-rickshaw driver, Robin, 25, and Harun, 25, were being treated at the Dhaka Medical College (DMCH) under police custody, hospital sources said.

Police said more than 50 people attacked the three persons when they were chasing a private car at about 2 pm.

### Poura budget

From Page 1

to start at the end of the current year, the sources said.

Five new pucca roads will be constructed at Hajiganj, Godnyle, and Pathantali areas to improve the communication in the poura area.

Pipe drains will be constructed to remove the water-logging from Jamtala, Gollachipa, College Road and DIT Bangabandhu Road and Dailpatty at Netaiganj area.

### Buriganga

From Page 1

ghat officials at Babubazar said.

Meanwhile, with the construction of the bridge in progress land prices on the other side of the river have soared. Locals said over the past two years the price of land has risen from Tk 20,000 per katha to around Tk 4 lakh per katha.

### FBCCI chief

From Page 1

50,000 instead of Tk 30,000 at present.

Harun put emphasis on the development of 'real sector' and demanded proper credit disbursement for agriculture and agro-based industries.

Appreciating the current political stability, he said political leaders should make parliament more effective and that political stability should continue for the sake of development.

## Minister tells JS 'BTV giving coverage to President as usual'

By Staff Correspondent

Minister of State for Information Abu Sayeed told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that Bangabhaban had not withdrawn itself from BTV's coverage of the President's activities.

He said, Bangladesh Television was regularly covering the activities of the President as per news value and his wishes.

The minister made the clarification following BNP lawmaker M K Anwar's allegation, which he made quoting a press report, that the President's house had withdrawn itself from the BTV coverage.

The State Minister termed the allegation as false and baseless. He said that even last night a meeting of government and opposition leaders with the President at Bangabhaban was covered by BTV.

In this connection, the minister said, though BNP did not entertain and treated badly BTV cameramen, BTV cameras had taken shots of the party's programme on various occasions, including the death anniversary programme of Ziaur Rahman.

Earlier, quoting from an English language daily, M K

Anwar said, Bangabhaban had refused BTV coverage protesting the censorship of the President's activities. Citing examples, he said, BTV did not cover the President's meetings with the Indonesian High Commissioner and the chairman of the Privatisation Board.

In reply to the BNP MP's allegation that the members of the commission on giving autonomy to Radio and TV were making 'world tour', Prof Abu Sayeed said the commission would submit its report in due course of time adding the members were touring some countries only to know about how the electronic media were operating in other countries.

## CID to investigate Purulia arms drop incident, JS told

A CID team is investigating the airdrop of arms on Purulia in West Bengal where some boxes of weapons were addressed to a Bangladeshi company, the home minister told parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Making a statement in the House, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam said the news of arms dropping from a plane in 1995 was internationally circulated. Several boxes of arms were sealed off bearing the address of a Bangladeshi company, he added.

He said on request from the Foreign Ministry, the Home Ministry constituted an investigation team headed by a senior SP to probe the incident. The investigation is on.

Referring to a "New Nation" report about opening of CBI or the Central Bureau of Investigation office and some opposition MP's allegation in parliament, Rafiq said his ministry had issued rejoinder to the news report as untrue and baseless.

And it was published in the daily on April 23, the minister told the House.

### Private labs

From Page 1

the result.

The study revealed that the external quality programme (proficiency testing) does not exist in the country. Only 20 laboratories have a so-called internal quality assurance programme (quality control).

The directors said the most common method of solid waste disposal is simply throwing them in the municipal dustbin. Only one centre has an incinerator for solid wastages while all centres dispose of liquid wastages by flushing with running water without any disinfection or neutralisation.

The personal protective equipment are not adequately present in most of the centres. For instance, face masks and eye glasses are absent in all the 25 laboratories.

They use disposable syringes for drawing blood but technicians dispose of the used syringes and needles into the dustbin. Only one technician followed the ideal procedures that is incineration and another one sells used syringes to hawkers.

The study found that the major causes of the unavailability of some STD tests are lack of sophisticated instruments and skilled technical personnel, not requested by the doctors and inadequate space in the laboratory.

Population Council's research officer M Zakirul Islam, research fellow Sharif M Ismail Hossain and its country representative Kim Streatfield conducted the study.