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Major reforms in legal, judicial system a must: CJ

A World Bank-sponsored project aimed at making the country's judicial system more dynamic to meet the need of modern society was launched vesterday, reports UNB.

The Judicial and Legal Capacity Building Project will identify various bottlenecks in the legal and judicial process and prepare specific recommendations for removing

Speaking at the launching ceremony. Chief Justice ATM Afzal said it is imperative that necessary major reforms are brought about in the legal and judicial system so that justice can be delivered quickly and in

He said reform should include a review of the doctrinal foundations of the traditional system of administrative justice in order to determine the role and objectives of such a system in today's changing

legal system is mostly inherited from British period and except a few new legislations from time to time, its basic structure, by and large, remained unchanged over the decades.

As a result, the Chief Justice observed, the administration of justice has lagged behind in desired reforms to cope with the Justice Afzal stressed the need for a modern and efficient

legal system to meet the new demands arising from cases linked to private commercial activities. Laws and regulations in this regard should be

enforced fairly and speedily.
The Chief Justice said the government would urgently have to make adequate budgetary provision for new courtrooms and judges' chambers.

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru said people are gradu-ally losing confidence in the country's judiciary due to the costly, complex and lengthy

He stressed the need of comprehensive programme for resolving the problems related to the legal and judicial procedure.

Khasru said inadequate legal system discourages foreign in vestment that is essential for development. Laws should be liberalised to facilitate foreign investors.

World Bank Resident Mission Chief Pierre Landell-Mills said if justice is delayed, not only justice is denied, but "development is also denied."

Referring to huge congestion of pending cases in the High Court and other problems in the legal and judicial sector, he underlined urgent judicial re-

The World Bank Mission Chief assured the government of strong and continued support from the bank in the legal reforms programmes in Bangladesh.

Post-budget dialogue

cient to measure the economy's trend", Kibria said, "We have been successful in maintaining price stability and hope it wil continue in the next year.

On savings and investment Kibria said foreign investment in gas and power and telecom munication sectors was in creasing substantially. "If we remove some impediments hindrances and bottleneck, the investment will rise sharply.

He mentioned that the government with the cooperation of the WB had formed a company for supporting private sector investment in infrastructure sector. "We have created a 50 million US dollar fund for supporting the investors and the fund will be raised to 300 million dollars gradually," he

Wahiduddin Mahmud said the tax-GDP ratio has been stagnating at 12 per cent for long time. The macroeconomic situation was 'adverse' when the finance minister announced

the 1997-98 budget, he added. "Foreign exchange had been depleting sharp and government's borrowing from the banking system had been ex-

panding. Mahmud said the macroeco-

nomic balance would be worse following implementation of the new nation pay scale.

IAF chopper

incident, has conveyed regrets to Dhaka and explained that the intrusion of helicopter into Bangladesh territory was entirely inadvertent.

The statement said the helicopter, bound for Aizawl, had to divert to Agartala on account of bad weather. The captain of the helicopter had to continuously change his course moving north of his intended route, due to the weather conditions.

suitable spot to await clearance of weather, the statement

Mahmud, also a former chairman of Economics department at the Dhaka University, said it would be difficult

He suggested finding out potential exporters in any sector and support them by giving incentives to increase the foreign

Yussuf Abdullah Harun said industrialists were not getting cooperation from the banks and financial institutions. Lack of financing and massive shortfall of power were badly affecting industrial growth. He

quality of projects under ADP was not upto the mark and those were not contributing enough to generate growth and employment.

not be solved down because "it will cause wastage of wealth and delay development."

4 killed in separate incidents in

SIRAJGANJ, June 14: Four people were killed in separate mishaps in three thanas of the

Tota Mia and another cattle trader were killed when a cattle ladden truck overturned and fell into a wayside ditch at Paikparain on the Kazipur-Dhunat road in Kazipur thana at 5 am. In another incident, a mi-

nor-boy Saiful was rammed under the wheel of a speeding truck at Sarshakol on the Bogra-Nagarbari road in Sahjadpur thana at 10 am.

In separate incident, Tara Mia was electrocuted while repairing an electric line at his residence in Sadar thana

Week begins The National Primary Education Week '97 began yesterday

with a call to create awareness among the people about the significance of primary education in national development, reports BSS. Deputy Minister for Primary

Primary Edn

and Mass Education Prof. Zinatun Nessa Talukder inaugurated the week by planting sapling at Motijheel Ideal Government Primary School premises in the city.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion the deputy minister said, the present government is committed to eradicate the curse of illiteracy from the country by 2005. She said, it has become the national responsibility of all to educate the general mass to turn them into human resources

One killed in Habiganj clash

HABIGANJ, June 14: An old man was killed and 50 others were injured in a clash at Biratgram in Azmiriganj thana today, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said supporters of Motabbir Hossain and Atar Ali of the village clashed over a family dispute in the morning.

Azgar Ullah, 65, a supporters of Atar Ali, died on the spot when a bullet hit him during the fighting in which firearms and sharp weapons were used. The injured were admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital and Azmiriganj thana health com-

8 more killed in Karachi violence

KARACHI, June 14: Eight people, including a policeman, were killed in violent incidents in the Pakistani city of Karachi today, police said, reports Reuter. They said two gunmen on a

motorcycle shot dead police constable Shah Murad, 53, near new town police station. In a separate incident, gun-

men kidnapped, tortured and hanged a 22-year old man, before dumping his body in a sewer in the volatile Liaquatabad area, police said. A 25-year-old man identified only as Sardar was stabbed

to death in District South. Dir Faraz, 30, was shot dead in Quaidabad and gunfire killed Sved Mumtaz Hussain in north Nazimabad in District Central. Three other people were killed in separate areas of the southern port city, police said.

Savimbi ready to meet Angolan President

LISBON, Portugal, June 14: Former Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, trying to defuse a crisis imperiling the peace process, said Friday he is willing to fly to Italy to meet with Angola's vacationing president. reports AP.

Savimbi is prepared to go to the Italian island of Sardinia. where President Jose Eduardo dos Santos is reported to be on vacation, according to a statement from the Lisbon delegation of UNITA, the former rebel group Savimbi heads. These would be the first face-to-face talks between the former adversaries in more than a year.

FBCCI From Page 1

domestic production in this sec-

Urging people specially the business community to extend all out cooperation to the government for creating favourable measures for development, he hailed the proposals for setting up a housing fund in the social sector, old age pension and setting up of an employment bank. He also welcome major reform proposals on direct tax.

He mentioned that by expanding the tax base a large number of people will be brought under the tax network which will have positive effect in revenue earning. But the success of these proposals will largely depend on the sincerity and efficiency of tax officials engaged at field level, he pointed out.

High priority given in allocating funds for education, human resource development and poverty alleviation deserves appreciation. Adequate physical infrastructure is a pre-condition for industrialisation and allocation of Tk 7,327 for development of this sector is praise-worthy, the FBCCI president observed.

He further said it was expected that there will be minimum difference of 10 per cent corporate tax in case of listed companies to rejuvenate the capital market. Reduction of corporate tax will certainly help industrialisation.

The proposal for privatisation of 65 state-owned enterprises in the next fiscal year is a step in the right direction. This will ensure savings of a large sum of money for the government as subsidy to these public sector enterprises, the FBCCI president noted.



A children's procession in observance of the National Primary Education Week '97 was brought out in the city yesterday by the Monitoring Unit for Implementation of Compulsory Primary Education. - Star photo

D-8: Dhaka, Ankara

From Page

also laid highest importance on expansion of high-level contact between the two countries for furthering the already existing bilateral cooperation. They also stressed the need for more visits of the business leaders of the both countries to explore further avenues for economic, trade and commercial coopera-

While talking about the infrastructural development in Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina said that Turkey could help Bangladesh particularly in developing deep sea port and bridges. President Demirel extended allout help and cooperation of his country in this re-

Later Sheikh Hasina and her Turkish counterpart Prof Necmettin Erbakan at another meeting expressed their firm confidence that the combined role of eight Muslim countries would go a long way in facilitating the cooperation among them for the benefits of member countries as well as the prosper-

ity of the group. The two leaders hoped that the full potentials of the D-8 countries in all possible fields including trade, economy, culture, sports and education could be jointly harnessed for the benefits of the member coun-

Erbakan, while outlining the concept of D-8 group, said that it would start a prospective process of globalisation and flourish like G-7 countries.

In the nearly hour-long meeting, the two leaders discussed mainly the parameters and guidelines of the forum to intensify and consolidate fruittul cooperation among the D-8 member countries.

Sheikh Hasina said within the framework of D-8. Turkish investors and companies could invest in Bangladesh independently on the basis of 100 per cent ownership or through joint ventures with public or private sectors of Bangladesh or with other D-8 members.

Sheikh Hasina arrived here this afternoon to attend the first D-8 summit beginning tomorrow.

Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Cochairman of Bangladesh -Turkey Joint Economic Commission Esen Gul received the Prime Minister at the Istanbul Airport as she arrived on a twoday visit.

The Prime Minister was taken by helicopter to Ciragan Palace Hotel where she will be staying during her visit.

One killed, 55 hurt in road accidents One person was killed and 55

others were injured in separate road accident in Khagrachhari and Habiganj yesterday, reports UNB A young man was killed and

35 people were injured when a passenger bus fell 80 feet into a deep ditch at hilly area in Sadar thana yesterday, police said. The Khagrachhari-bound

bus from the capital skidded off the road as the driver lost control of the vehicle at Nakapa area, some 40 km off the district town, at about 12:15 pm. Helper of the bus Yunus

Bhuiyan, 20, died on the spot. The seriously injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Ramgar Thana Health Complex

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with Sadar police.

In Habiganj, at least 25 passengers were injured in a headon collision between two passenger buses on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Deorgachh in Chunarughat thana yesterday.

Port users From Page 1

Following the government assurance, leaders of the Forum met at a local hotel and decided to withdraw the strike call, its convenor Kamal Uddin Ahmed told UNB. He, however, said that they

were to discuss the issue with the city mayor, port chairman and high officials at a meeting here at 12 midnight. The Forum had called for the

strike on June 7.

D-8 to be launched

From Page 1 peoples and will emphasise on

10 thrust areas of cooperation. The countries which are involved in the launching of the new organisation initiated by Turkey are Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia and Nigeria. Each of the eight pioneering

nations of the proposed organisation had earlier set up working groups on the 10 thrust areas to prepare detailed reports and recommendations on the different sectors for possible implementation. It was learnt that the D-8 has decided to take up 50 mega-projects for giving focused attention for co-opera-

Bangladesh, which took up the task of heading the working group on rural development and micro-credit, is learnt to have already finalised its proposals. The other thrust areas of cooperation that have been iden-

tified and given responsibility for preparing recommendations are: Turkey-Industry and Health, Pakistan-Agriculture, Nigeria-Energy, Indonesia-Development of Human Resources, Malaysia-Banking and Finance, Iran-Science & Technology and Information & Communication and Egypt-Transportation.

The draft charter of the organisation has already been approved at a meeting of senior officials and at the Council of Ministers meeting held in Istanbul yesterday, according to diplomatic sources.

The 'Developing Eight' would try to launch a shipping line, and devise methods to sell agricultural products among the members such as cotton, jute and other items. The organisation would also try to work out methods for building backward linkages for ready made garments in the post Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA) context among other economic subjects of common concern, the sources said.

Although the OIC composes of 56 countries, the eight countries floating the 'Developing-8' has nearly half the population of the OIC states.

On October 22 last year State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury attended the first ministerial meet in Turkey to discuss the formation of the 'D-8' grouping.

The organisation reached a more concrete stage when it held a high level meeting on March 13 and 14 in Istanbul in preparation for its formal launching. Bangladesh was represented in the Istanbul meeting by a senior official of the

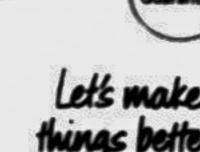
Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The permanent Secretariat of the 'Developing-8' is likely to be located in Istanbul.



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Let's make things better **PHILIPS**

McVeigh to die for Oklahoma City bombing

DENVER, June 14: Timothy McVeigh has been condemned to death for the deadliest terrorist attack on US soil, accepting the ultimate punishment with-out so much as a blink, reports

"It's OK," he later mouthed to nis parents. As US District Judge Ri-

chard Matsch read the jury's unanimous decision Friday, his usually firm voice wavered slightly. Bombing survivors and victims' relatives gasped, cried onto each other's shoul ders and held hands.

The same seven-man, fivewoman jury that convicted McVeigh of murder and conspiracy on June 2 deliberated for more than 11 hours over two days before deciding the 29year-old decorated Gulf War veteran should die by injection rather than spend the rest of his life in prison for the April 19, 1995 bombing in Oklahoma

McVeigh's father's shoulder's slumped, his sister cried and his mother sat silently, saving her tears until after the court

McVeigh sat in the same position as when he was convicted: narrowed eyes on the judge, hands clasped and pressed against his cheek, no movement whatsoever in his expressionless face.

Yet as he was led out of the courtroom, he make a small, two-fingered wave to his parents and then made the same wave to the jury that condemned him, nodding his head up and down. They stared blankly back.

Matsch, who must abide by the jury's decision, said he wil impose the actual sentences later this summer, after a July 7 deadline for motions and ap-

In Oklahoma City, along the fence where the bombed-out federal building once stood, cheers erupted. Church bells tolled on the half-hour as the verdict came in.

BGMEA

From Page 1

The imposition of 7.5 per cent customs duty on textile machinery, 2.5 per cent surcharge, 15 per cent VAT and taxes on raw cotton will have devastating impact in the development of the textile sector "when we are facing competition in the international export-market with India and

Pakistan," Quddus said. While India is selling textile varn at dumping prices, he pointed out, "imposition of such taxes in our country will lead to a total catastrophe to our textile

and RMG sector. The BGMEA chief expressed concern for not putting up any measures to boost up exporttrade which "is the crying need of the time.'

"The budget does not provide for any export incentive, rather the newly imposed infrastructural surcharge would serve as disincentive to the industrial development through losing competitiveness against the imported goods and incoming smuggled goods."

This kind of disincentive would further add to the miseries of the losing en trepreneurs, he said, suggesting to exempt textile and other machineries, industrial raw materials and locally produced industrial goods from the purview of the surcharge and any new duties.

The BGMEA president cautioned that "colossal unproductive expenditure" due to revision of pay scale in the government sector would not only create tremendous strain on the private sector, but would also increase inflationary trend.

Expressing his dismay, Quddus said though the government is taking steps to realise the huge outstanding loans from the private sector defaulters, the budget does not indicate anything to realise the billions of defaulted loans in the public

sector enterprises. He strongly appealed to the finance minister for withdrawal of duty, taxes on cotton, textile machinery and 0.25 per cent tax at source on 100 per cent export-oriented garment industries to "boost up export growth of our country.'

LC: Genocide From Page 1

also be fined. A person charged with genocide could be arrested without any warrant and such a case would be non-bailable, the sources pointed out.

However, the Commission viewed that enacting a law on genocide solely depended on the policy decision of the government and said. 'It is for the government to decide if it would be proper to enact such law," and whether there was any real basis or necessity for it.

The LC recommendation was forwarded to the Law Ministry two months back but the ministry is yet to decide if a law would be enacted or not.

Saifur: Fiscal measures

From Page 1

served that budgetary allocations in different sectors would be much less compared with previous years after adjustment with the rate of inflation.

He opposed the import duties on textile machinery and cotton, saying this will destroy the country's growing textile sector as it will lose competitiveness. Rahman said considering

the Uruguay Round, GATT, WTO and future global context, the BNP government had withdrawn tax from the textile sector and brought it to zero tax for the growth of the industry and bright future of the garments As a result of BNP's policy.

mills were set up during the BNP rule and the country's knit fabrics attained international standard. He wanted to know for whose

he said, over 80 new textile

interest tax was proposed on textile sector. "Will it bring any benefit or destroy the textile

Anti-Taliban jet bombs Kabul airport

KABUL, June 14: An anti Taliban jet fighter rocked Kabul shortly before midnight Friday when it bombed the capital's airport, reports AP.

A single bomb landed near the airport in a largely deserted area of the city, according to eyewitnesses. But the concussion shook buildings and rattled windows in the area. The bombing run was followed by nearly one hour of

anti-aircraft fire by Taliban

soldiers, who control the capi-

tal and roughly two-thirds of

Afghanistan. There were no reports of casualties in the bombing, the first in nearly three months to

rattle the capital.

Khaleda

From Page 1

any of the BNP-made budgets. She alleged that the Awami League government was destroying the country instead of building it. It is talking of giving subsidy in the agriculture sector, but at the same time is imposing taxes on agri inputs and instruments. Begum Zia

"This policy will make the farmers helpless and result in production fall," she said. The former prime minister

said if the budget is passed without any amendments, the nation will lag behind. In the proposed budget, said BGMEA leaders, imposition of surcharge and taxes on textile machinery and raw materials will ultimately jeopardise

flourishing textile industry.

"Consequently, we will not be

able to compete with India and Pakistan," they added. They said the garment sector was brought up during the BNP rule when the number of garments industries rose to 2,300 from 700 and that of employees to 13 lakh from three lakh. The sector now contributes 66 per

earnings. The BGMEA leaders handed over a cheque of Tk five lakh to Begum Zia for the cyclone victims. They also invited the leader of the Opposition to attend as chief guest the concluding function of the BATEXPO likely to be held in late August.

cent to the country's export

Rahman criticised the imposition of VAT on small and cottage industries and said the major employment-generating sec-tor would be badly affected by the value added tax.

About the GDP growth of 5.7 per cent for the outgoing fiscal year, he said it was based on fancies and could be perceived at the end of the year.

Referring to the use of ADP outlay of Tk 11,700 crore, he said the total utilisation of the ADP fund would be less than Tk 11,000 crore.

About the Foreign Direct Investment, Rahman said only 329 million US dollar had been invested till February of the current fiscal when the FDI was 1560 million US dollar during the last year on the BNP rule.

Rahman was critical of borrowing from banks by the government and said there had not been any investment as the private sector was driven out of bank assistance. "Due to wrong monetary

policy and excessive borrowing from banks, the private sector only got loan of Tk 600 crore this year. How the private sector will invest if the government borrows a huge money from banks?" About the allegation that BNP government had doled out

excess loans, he said the BNP

government didn't have to bor-

row money from banks, instead

it had returned Tk 1338 crore to banks in three years since 1992. As a result of giving loan to the private sector, Rahman said, the country witnessed a huge investment during the BNP period. He refuted the allegation that loan recipients became defaulters during the BNP

He also disagreed with the ruling party that the bank default culture started from Ziaur Rahman's period. He said total bank loan was Tk 1763 crore as of June 30, 1981, the year Zia

In 1991, he said, the Begum Zia government inherited outstanding bank loan to the tune of Tk 17,823 crore from the Ershad administration, but the Awami League government did not mention the Ershad regime.

Referring to Foreign Direct Investment, Saifur Rahman said the FDI reduced tremendously compared to BNP's last He said BNP government had

started with 25 million US dol-

lar FDI in 1991 and it rose to

1560 million US dollar in early

1996. But the FDI in last eight months of this year stood at only 329 million plus which may increase to 550 million US dollar at the end of the year. The press conference was attended by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan

Bhuiyan, MP, Abdul Mannan MP, Fazlur Rahman Patal, MP, Alamgir Kabir, MP and Ehsanul Kabir.

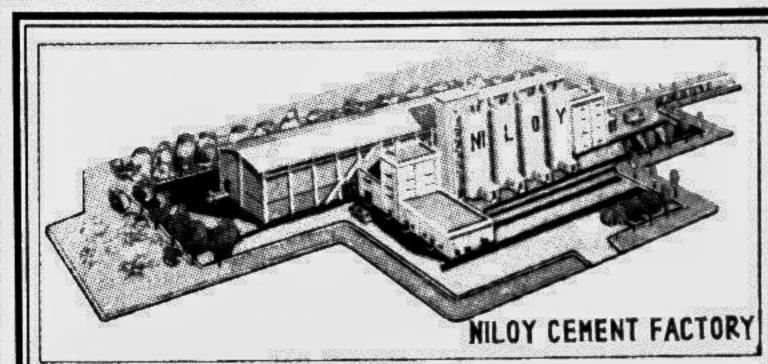
Statement

From Page 1 tions. Erbakan, modern Turkey's first pro-Islamic premier, issued the idea of the grouping

last October. Heads of state and government of Iran, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Malaysia will attend tomorrow's summit that will be inaugurated by host

president Suleyman Demirel. Nigeria and Egypt have sent ministers to represent their

countries.



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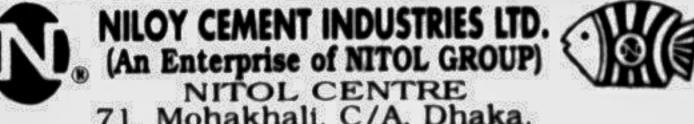
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a cost-effective way.

Justice Afzal said country's

transformations and changes in socio-economic scenario.

for the government to bring back budgetary discipline. exchange reserve.

urged the government to inform the entrepreneurs in advance about any liberalisation and privatisation programme so that they could take decisions for future investment. Pierre Landell-Mills said the

He said privatisation should

district today, police said, reports UNB. They were identified as Total Mia, 40, Tara Mia, Saiful, 11, and an unidentified man.

Subsequently, due to increasingly difficult weather conditions, the pilot landed at a

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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D-721

Printed by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail Dhaka-1000 and published by him on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205, PABX 500092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net