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Fed Exx Federal Express

The World on Time



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at the -PID photo Bangabhaban yesterday.

production in Doloi, Madan-

mohon, Kurma, Champarai,

Arinagar, Nurjahan, Mad-

hobpur, Chatlapur, Shamser

nagar, Sri Govindapur and Pa-

trakhola gardens stopped to-

tally due to gas supply disrup-

Bangladesh Tea and Land Com-

pany Limited, Bangladesh Tea

Company, Dancan and other

private organisations are now

continuing the production in

Khaleda

From Page 1

with some of his followers

joined BNP at the function at

the Minto Road residence of the

of all patriotic nationalist

forces is a must to protect coun-

try's independence and

sovereignty. "If you do not want

to join BNP, then build resis-

tance from your own position."

leged that the government did

not bring any welfare to the

countrymen in the last one

year, rather it was trying to sell

election, BNP's victory was

"snatched through conspiracy.

We have to resist such conspir-

She said in the last general

Ganges water

From Page 1

the dry season. The report

would be handed over to the re-

spective governments for in-

formation and implementa-

mandated to submit to the two

governments a yearly report as

per article six of the Indo-

tain figures of the quantum of

discharge from Farakka point,

during each 10-day cycle and

the amount received during the

same periods at the Hardinge

Joint Committee (JC) meeting

was led by Khalilur Rahman,

member Joint Rivers Commis-

sion, while the Indian side was

PP assaulted

From Page 1

They also tried to set fire to

Later in the day, the BCL ac-

the chamber but the police

brought the situation under

tivists brought out a procession

in the court premises demand

ing immediate removal of the

Fifth plan

From Page 1

The draft plan envisages an

average annual growth rate of

over 7 per cent and over 22 per

come would be invested to at-

The prime minister thanked

the Planning Commission for

preparing the preliminary draft

of the fifth five-year plan

within a short span of five

to circulate the draft plan

among the quarters concerned

ning Ministry were present on

to obtain their opinion on it.

The prime minister directed

Senior officials of the Plan-

months.

the occasion.

public prosecutor.

led by N V Char, member JRC.

The Bangladesh team at the

The report is learnt to con-

The Joint Committee is

tion, the sources said.

Bangladesh treaty.

Bridge point.

control.

out the country.

acy in future."

The BNP Chairperson al-

Begum Zia said greater unity

Leader of the Opposition.

the nearby 12 tea factories.

These tea gardens owned by

### Magurchhara gasfield fire

### Srimangal tea gardens facing huge losses Following the gas fire, tea

Tea gardens in Srimangal are facing huge financial loss as production of two lakh kg green leaf and 46,000 kg made tea are being hampered daily due to Magurchhara gasfield fire, a top official said in Dhaka yester-

Some 12 tea gardens, mostly owned by private local and multinational companies, are losing approximately Tk 2.70 crore a day because of production fall caused by disruption in gas supply to the factories.

"The actual loss is more than that as many things, including damage of lands and saplings and loss of time needed for plant maturity, would have to be considered while measuring the total loss," the official of the Bangladesh Tea Board told

Fulbari Tea Garden, the worst affected garden, has lost tea plants alongwith the lands of some 30 hectares, of which 30 per cent was damaged totally and 70 per cent either severely or moderately

A tea garden has to spend Tk 1.10 lakh for planting tea saplings on only one hectare of land which needs at least 2-3 years for plant maturity, several years to go for production and improve quality of tea.

### Proceedings From Page

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

The 15 others accused in the case are being tried in absentia and were represented by state defence.

Some of the defence lawyers suggested disposal of their petitions. The prosecution opposed this as, according to them, it might create complications.

The judge decided not to resume the proceedings till the High Court gives a decision on the criminal revision petition filed by Zobaida Rashid, wife of absconding accused Col (dismissed) Khandaker Abdur Rashid.

### Judgement From Page 1

perusal of record and considering relevant documents in the

fused, they became angry and at sensational murder case. one stage of altercation beat up Special Public Prosecutor the PP and ransacked his Adv Sirajul Haq also submitted to the court on behalf of the chamber.

## Gold haul

From Page 1

to Malaysia to arrest the four absconding persons but failed due to legal complications there, the investigation officer

The Customs surveillance team at the ZIA seized 120 kilograms of smuggled gold worth about Taka nearly eight crore last year.

### Pay scale

From Page 1

tain this target. Dr Alamgir also presented to ernment transports on a fulltime basis will get Tk 8,000 per the prime minister the foreword written by Father of the month as car allowance. Be-Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh sides, they could get Tk 400,000 Mujibur Rahman himself on as soft terms loans to buy cars. the first five-year plan of inde-Employees living in Dhaka city and outside will get Tk 125 and pendent Bangladesh and prepared in November, 1973, under Tk 100 per month respectively the guidance and directive of as transport allowance, the Bangabandhu. commission report said.

Medical allowance has been suggested at Tk 350 per month for those above 40 years and Tk 250 for those below 40.

The commission recommended casual leave of 15 days a year instead of 20 days at present. Friday could be half working day until 12:30 pm and Sunday could be full weekly holiday. But office timing should remain 9 am to 5 pm, it suggested.

### PM apprises President of D-8 launching

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon reports UNB.

The Prime Minister apprised the President of the formation of the Developing-8 in Istanbul for fostering economic cooperation among the eight partner countries.

The economic block comprising Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey was launched in a D-8 summit on June 15. Hasina also informed the

President of her forthcoming visit to Japan from July 1-6. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr SA Samad

### was present on the occasion. President hosts dinner for

SC, HC judges

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed hosted a dinner for the judges of the Supreme Court Appellate and High Court divisions at Bangabhaban last night, reports UNB.

Among others, Chief Justice ATM Afzal attended the dinner. While talking to them, the President enquired about the working of the courts and position of the long pending cases.

Earlier, President Shahabuddin welcomed the guests and exchanged pleasantries with them.

### Body to probe corruption in Ctg Edn Board

CHITTAGONG, June 19: The Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Chittagong has formed a three member high powered inquiry committee to probe the alleged corruption and irregularities in the board, reports BSS.

According to a press release signed by secretary of the board, the authority has constituted the inquiry committee following a meeting of the leaders of five teachers organisations with the chairman of the

board The leaders of the teachers organisations in the meeting charged the Chittagong Education Board with corruptions and anomalies particularly in the affairs of conducting exam-

inations. While contacted, chairman of the Board, Prof Ahsanullah told BSS that the committee members are Principal Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Principal of Chittagong Polytechnic Institute Fariduddin Ahmed and Deputy Director of the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Department, Chittagong region Abdur Razzak.

### Magurchhara

From Page 1

gas at the Magurchhara site was coming out from a sub-soil depth of 800 to 850 meters uncent of the total national in- der high pressure, it had created a visible impact on the water reservoirs which were close to

the surface. "The high pressure is pressurising the water reservoirs and now water is coming out au-

tomatically," the expert noted. He, however, could not explain why the adjacent hills were rocking, but said, "it is possible that the explosion of the well had destabilised the reservoir structure extensively

and thus affected the ecology." US company Occidental had begun the drilling in that spot on June 2. This is the first drilling of the US company which is operating in the Surma valley under a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed on January 11, 1995. Occidental had reached a depth of 850 metres when the incident

I took place on June 15.

### IPSA declared university

### Reduce dependence on food import: PM

GAZIPUR, June 19: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said her government has attached top priority to agricul-ture to reduce dependence on food import, report agencies. "It is not at all desirable for

an independent and sovereign nation to depend on others for food," she said at the 2nd convocation ceremony of the Institute of Postgraduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) here. The demand for food will in-

crease by 50 per cent during the first 10 years of the 21st century. The variety of food re-quired by the people will also change simultaneously with the economic growth.

The Prime Minister said it is now a great challenge to feed the ever-increasing population of the country.

Some 102 students were conferred with MS and five others with PhD degrees by the IPSA. Wearing a convocation gown, the Prime Minister led the convocation procession and handed over certificates to the degree holders.

The Prime Minister also declared the IPSA a university and instructed the authorities

GAIBANDHA, June 19: At

least thirty-two persons were

injured in a series of clashes be-

tween two factions of the

Bangladesh Chhatra League at

Gobindaganj yesterday evening.

and made baton charges to dis-

clash started when a faction of

BCL(S-P) brought out a protest

procession which was resisted

by the other faction. Two stu-

dents — Muktadir Rahman Rafi

and Shameem Reza Manju -

who received severe injuries

were removed to the Rangpur

the local office of the Awami

League and ransacked its furni-

ture and windows. Chase and

lathi charge and lobbed several

rounds of tear gas shells to dis-

perse the crowd. Thirty persons

22 new hospitals

to be set up in

'97-98, JS told

By Staff Correspondent

will be set up in the country dur-

ing the 1997-98 financial year.

Health and Family Welfare

Minister Salahuddin Yusuf said

in the Jatiya Sangsad yester-

tions, the planned new hospi-

tals will include a health sci-

ence institute and 500-bed hos-

pital, a dental college with a

200-bed hospital, a 100-bed

burn unit, a national asthma

centre and an eye hospital (at a

new site) - all in Dhaka. In ad-

dition, six asthma centres will

be set up in the six most acci-

dent-prone areas of the country,

a 250-bed specialised hospital

will be set up in Khulna, and

nine hospitals will be set up at

remote areas with 10-bed capac-

in 23 thana health complexes

(THCs) will be raised from 31 to

50 each, beds in five district

hospitals from 50 to 100 each

and beds in four medical college

hospitals from 250 to 500 each

during the period between 1991

and 1996, 18 hospitals with 100

to 250 bed capacity, one 20-bed hospital and 31 THCs with 31-

query, the minister said that

since January 1, 1991 none died

of cholera but, 17,061 died of

diarrhoea over the same period

He said that 2,46,919 people

were attacked, and 508 of them

died of diarrhoea during the pe-

riod between January 1, 1997 to

Responding to another

bed capacity each were built.

Salahuddin Yusuf said that

in the next fiscal.

June 10 last.

Besides, the number of beds

ity each.

Responding to some ques-

Twenty-two new hospitals

Police again resorted to

Meanwhile, one group raided

Medical College Hospital.

counter chase started.

received injuries.

perse the students.

Police lobbed tear gas shells

According to police, the

concerned to take necessary steps to implement her announcement.

Established in 1983, IPSA has been offering modern academic programmes and conducting fundamental and applied research and out-reach activities in agriculture science at the highest level.

Japan and the United States are providing financial and technical assistance to IPSA. The Prime Minister said the

government has already formed a national commission for agriculture considering the importance of the sector.

She said the production of foodgrains increased to 20 million metric tons for the first time this year for pragmatic steps taken by the government. "We have to increase the

yield of crops per unit area," she said, adding that sustainable environment-friendly agricultural technology should be innovated. Agriculture Minister Begum

Matia Chowdhury, agriculture scientist Dr S M Hasanuzzaman and Rector of the institute Dr AM Ashraful Kamal also spoke at the function.

### 32 hurt as BCL DCCI team urges Finance Minister factions clash to keep banks in Gaibandha open on Saturday From Our Correspondent

A delegation of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) led by its President ASM Quasem called on Finance Minister Shah AMS Kib ria at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

The DCCI leaders discussed with the minister the overall economic situation of the country and different aspects of the proposed budget for 1997-98 fiscal year.

They appreciated its social welfare measures and thanked the finance minister for the steps to simplify and modernise revenue collection system, said an official handout. The business leaders also

gave some suggestions to accelerate industrial development in the country. They mentioned that businessmen were facing problem due to closure of banks two days a week and demanded to keep the banks open on Sat-The DCCI leaders empha-

sised expansion of port facilities, saying that the country's industry and economic development could be hindered if port facilities are not ensured.



### Mamta's latest

BOMBAY, June 19: An Indian film star dismissed her police bodyguards and asked for permission to protect herself with an AK-47 assault rifle, newspapers said today, reports

But Bombay-based actress Mamta Kulkarni, known for playing sultry heroines in romantic films, was refused permission to buy the rifle by the authorities, the Hindi-language evening newspaper Sanjha Jansatta reported.

The newspaper said the police had compromised by saying they would grant her a revolver licence.

Kulkarni caused outrage recently and attracted death threats after posing topless on a magazine cover.

Gun control laws are very tight in India and police permission is required to own

# Jatiya Sangsad snippets

From Page 1 small margin. He should check his mental health.'

Supporting Feroz, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad then prescribed checking of Badruddoza Chowdhury's mental health.

Participating in the budget discussion, Feroz later said he was elected MP four times and won with a margin of 18,000 to 20,000 votes in the first three terms.

Amid comments from the BNP members that this time he won by only 29 votes, the AL lawmakers went on "People who elected me thrice got frustrated finding no development in their area due to hostile attitude of the successive governments. That's why, I've bagged less votes in the last elections."

The Deputy Speaker interrupted Shamsul Alam Pramanik of BNP as he was speaking something not contained in his notice on introduction of tube railway in the capital city.

Following suggestion from the Chair to go by his notice, Pramanik commented, "Once such a railway is constructed, it will be used not only by the BNP men but also by those from the

Awami League.

"Then what will happen to those belonging to the Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and JSD (Rab)? Won't they be allowed to go through that tube?" asked a smiling Deputy Speaker. "Certainly, certainly, people

of all categories will get the opportunity," replied the BNP MP. Speaking on bumper pro-

duction of mango in his area, BNP lawmaker from Chapainawabganj Harun-ur-Rashid invited the Deputy Speaker to have the seasonal

Responding to this, Abdul Hamid said "You people only extend such invitation but never feed me."

### Hague replaces John Major

LONDON, June 19: The British Conservative Party today selected William Hague, 36, to replace John Major as leader, reports AFP.

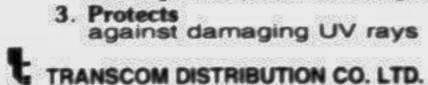
In the run-off third ballot 92 of the 164 Conservative MPs backed Hague, compared to 70 votes in favour of former chancellor of the exchequer Kenneth Clarke.

LOREAL PARIS

## PLENTUDE

EXCELL-A3 Cream and Lotion

- 1. Reveals a smoother; clearer complexion
- 2. Combats
- the signs of premature ageing





on Monday

Added Tax (VAT) on electronic The shop owners will keep their shutters down for one hour from noon and stage a sitin on the roads in front of their

press release of the Association The decision was taken at a meeting of the association at its Baitul Mokarram office. The meeting was chaired by the Association President Amir Hossain Khan and attended by rep-

ernment should impose one or two per cent VAT on those items at import or manufacturing

Permission to Rabbi

Int'l cancelled

it submitted were proved to be fake, said an official handout yesterday, reports UNB.

cence No 258) on March 31. On April 2, an advertisement was published in a Bangla newspaper saying the agency would recruit 100 semi-skilled construction workers for Metrobrite Engineering SDN BHD in the Malaysian province

Anyone having made advanced payment to the agency after the publication of the advertisement has been advised to contact the director general of the Manpower and Employment Bureau or the joint secretary (manpower) of the ministry within 15 days.

## Arvind Dave to be made

NEW DELHI, June 19: Arvind Dave, one of the senior most IPS officers, will be the new chief of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), the external arm of India's intelligence, official sources said today, reports PTI.

the Maddhya Pradesh cadre, Dave is at present the secondin-command in RAW.

the Indian embassy in Washington, will succeed Ranjan Roy, who is retiring this month.

### SALE AND REPURCHASE PRICES OF ICB UNIT CERTIFICATES REFIXED

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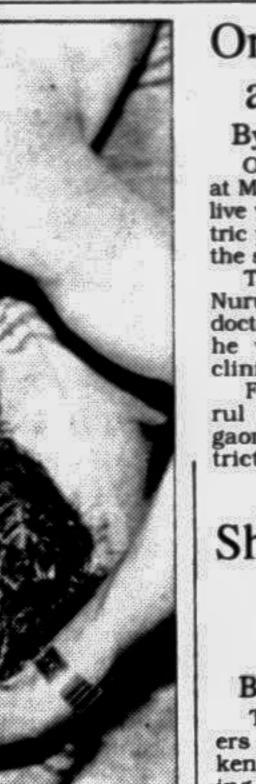


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The trader who was electrocuted at Maghbazar in the city -Star photo yesterday. JS budget discussion

Former BNP minister Abdul

Mannan said statistics shown

in the proposed budget was not

correct. He said GDP growth was

due to bumper harvest in agri-

Terming the surcharge dou-

Ex-BNP minister Abdul

ble taxation, Mannan said it

would destroy the local indus-

Alim described the budget as the

worst in this century and said

the finance minister lost confi-

dence in his own budget as

SAMS Kibria himself agreed to

revise some budgetary measures

even before any demand has

lauded SAMS Kibria for pre-

senting such a unique budget

which he said will increase in-

vestment and economic growth

upto 7 per cent in coming fiscal.

likened the budget to "the

weeping of a helpless widow'

and said it would only increase

the nation's dependence and

pungent criticism and humour,

Khaleguzzaman said the budget

deficit of Tk 8120 crore would

go up at the end of the fiscal

year if the finance minister

fails to manage revenue earning

Mosharraf Hossain supported

the expansion of tax-base, say-

ing it will bring a large number

of people into the tax-net,

helping the country in reducing

AL rally

From Page 1

Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to

tary Zillur Rahman, the meet-

ing decided to take all necessary

preparations to make the rally

a success and ensure participa-

tion of people from districts

beside AL central leaders, the

meeting was attended by leaders

of its front organisations, city

unit, Dhaka district unit, and

units of 10 other adjoining dis-

Dhaka city unit of AL was also

held last night at the party's

central office at Bangabandhu

Avenue. The meeting chaired by

city unit president Mohammad

Hanif, discussed about prepara-

tions for the June 23 rally.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the

A party press release said

Chaired by AL general secre-

Ruling party member Eng

and revenue expenditure.

dependency on donors.

address the rally.

outside Dhaka.

tricts.

In his speech, marked with

people's plight.

Khalequzzaman (BNP

Nurul Islam Nahid (AL)

raised by the opposition.

From Page 1 including textile sector, and turn the country into a market of Indian goods. They expressed concern over

the planned infrastructure de-

velopment surcharge, import duties on textile machinery raw cotton, paper, soap etc. and withdrawal subsidy from fertiliser. The ruling party members turned down the opposition contentions and claimed that the new budgetary measures

would protect the local indus-

tries, bring more foreign in-

vestment and generate jobs for the unemployed They praised the finance minister for proposing the oldage pension scheme as a step towards social security and employment generation bank for disbursing micro-credit to small entrepreneurs to eradi-

cate poverty. Some members were happy over the 5.7 per cent GDP and projected growth of 7 per cent for next financial year (1997-

Both the ruling party and opposition members spent much of their time on political issues and local problems in their respective constituencies.

Lord's Test

### No play on Day One

LONDON, June 19: Persistent rain forced Michael Atherton to wait one more day before becoming England's longest-serving Test captain, reports AP. The first day's play in the

second Ashes Test was called off without a ball bowled Thursday when umpires David Shepherd and Srinivas Venkataraghavan made their third and final inspection before announcing the inevitable decision.

### 12 hurt as rival ghat workers clash anew in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, June 19: At least 12 persons, including two police constables, were injured in fresh clashes between two groups of labourers at the river ghat here today.

Both sides used fire arms and hand bombs. According to witnesses, four shops were looted and ransacked during the clashes which continued from 7 to 8:30 pm creating panic in the area.

Passenger launches at the IWT terminal were also hit by bombs and bullets. The two rival groups also

### clashed yesterday. Nuruzzaman

From Page 1 gaon on June 13 without prior permission.

Later, they were brought on police remand for two days and produced before the court on June 16. The court granted them bail, but police rushed Sharif to National Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

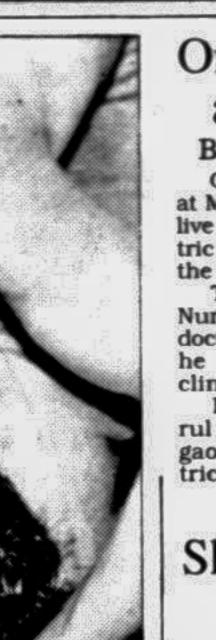
Chief Additional Metropolitan Magistrate M Habibur Rahman is also investigating the death.

### Mob beating

From Page 1 lifter. Another press release issued

from the Police Headquarters last night said police forces across the country have been instructed to take necessary steps to stop child-lifting. Taking law in one's own hand is a punishable offence, it said. A non-government organi-

sation, Centre for Women and Children Studies, claims that over last five years at least 13,220 children were smuggled out of the country, of whom 4,700 were rescued.



### VAT protested Shop owners call

# token strike

By Staff Correspondent The Bangladesh Shop Owners Association has called a token strike on Monday demanding withdrawal of the Value

business establishments, a said yesterday.

ation leaders. Speakers at the meeting criticised the new budget proposal for expanding the VAT network up to the retail level They suggested that the gov-

resentatives of different associ-

Manpower recruitment

Government has cancelled its permission to a local agency to recruit workers for a company in Malaysia as the papers

The Labour and Manpower Ministry approved the recruitment proposal of Messrs Rabbi International (Recruiting Li-

of Sarwak.

# RAW chief

A 1962 batch officer from

Dave, who has also served at

### 22-06-97 **EFFECTIVE FROM**