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The World on Time

JS holds 2 sittings from today

The Jatiya Sangsad will hold two sittings from today to enable the members to participate in the general discussions on the proposed national budget for 1996-97, reports BSS.

The House will sit from 10-30 am to 1 pm and again from 3-30 pm to 10-30 pm. Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid, who was presiding over yesterday's sitting said adding that both the Treasury and Opposition benches have agreed to hold double sittings from today.

Yesterday was the fourth day of the general debate on the proposed budget which was placed before the House by Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria on June 12.

Four members from the Treasury and Opposition benches took part in the discussions, including Minister of State for Land Haji Rashid Mosharraf who was the lone member from the Treasury bench.

Describing the budget as pragmatic and true to the political philosophies of the Awami League government aimed at changing the lot of the common man, Rashid Mosharraf said the implementation of the proposed budget would generate domestic resources much bigger than in the past.

He described the budget as

the "best ever financial document" and claimed that it would ensure social security with the introduction of pension scheme for the elderly poor. According to the state minister, the budget would also ensure flow of wealth from the rich to the poor.

The discussion was also participated by BNP members Ahsanul Huq Mollah and Gautam Chakrabarti and Jatiya Party member Rustam Ali Farazi.

Mollah described the budget as "anti-people" and held that the budgetary proposals would destroy the country's mills and factories. He said that the budget would turn Bangladesh's domestic markets into Indian market. He also strongly criticised the taxation proposals.

Jatiya Party member Rustam Ali Farazi, who criticised the budget as being "without direction", said it lacked the reflection of the lofty promises of the present ruling party, given before the last general election.

He also said that the government had betrayed the farming community by withdrawing the subsidy from fertiliser.

The House was adjourned at 8-15 pm to resume at 10-30 am today.

10 hurt in BM College clash

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 23: At least 10 persons were injured in a clash between BCL and JCD in the BM University College this morning.

Witnesses said, the clash ensued when the supporters of BCL and JCD brought out processions on the campus.

Two JCD activists, Nizam and Chayan, injured seriously were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. A motorcycle was also set on fire.

Pay Commission

From page 1

Secretary to the President's Office, Member of the Planning Commission (general economics), Secretary, Finance Division, and Secretary, Establishment Ministry.

The committee was formed with a view to appraising and getting recommendation on the government's financial capabilities, the increase of salaries without further taxation, reduction of necessary expenses, any possible co-relation of inflation with the salary increase.

The cabinet recalled that due to severe resource constraints and other shortcomings, the government could not fully materialise the recommendations of the previous four pay commissions.

Immediately after taking the charges, the government has framed the fifth National Pay Commission in September last year. The pay commission has submitted its report to the government on June 18, the hand-out said.

Meanwhile, the cabinet also approved the proposal of forming a high-powered committee headed by the cabinet secretary for easing the process of certification of the freedom fighters and their children along with the policies related to the "quota-system for direct recruitment of the freedom fighters and their children in the government, semi-government, autonomous and corporation offices."

People to judge: PM

From page 1

price of fertilizer was raised to check smuggling of fertilizer to India.

The Prime Minister said the proposed budget for 1997-98 financial year gave the highest allocation to the education sector to remove illiteracy. She also spoke about steps proposed in the new budget for giving allowances to elderly people and jobs for unemployed youths. She also mentioned the steps taken for establishing rule of law, strengthening the rural economy.

Sheikh Hasina said, Bangladesh is no longer identified in the outside world as a country of famine, turmoil, poverty and natural calamities. She recalled people's struggle for democracy, and paid tribute to the martyrs of democratic movement. "Days of taking power through bullets instead of ballots are over now."

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, LGRC and Cooperatives Minister and AL general secretary Zillur Rahman, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammed Nasim, Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury, AL presidium member Amir Hussain Amu, Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Suranjit Sen-

12 hurt as rival groups clash in Khalishpur

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 23: At least 12 people were injured, four of them seriously, in a two-hour clash between two rival groups in Khalishpur this evening. They were admitted to the KMC hospital.

Police and witnesses said the clash began when the supporters of one Ashraf group stormed the residence of Bine Zaman, the expelled joint secretary of the city Awami League, and looted valuables from the house. The inmates of the house were also attacked.

Later in retaliation, the supporters of Zaman attacked a procession of the Ashraf group. The clash in which firearms and bombs were used by both sides continued from 6 to 8 pm. Police brought the situation under control after looting tear gas shells and firing shots in the air.

Biman crew

From page 1

after he was taken to court custody in the city on June 16 on the expiry of a two-day police remand. He was arrested on charges of illegal trespass into the Prime Minister's Office three days before his death.

Sources concerned said that the CID investigators would also interrogate the persons who signed the "inquest report" as witnesses. They also questioned the family members of Nuruzzaman yesterday.

The inquest report submitted by a magistrate said that there was no mark of injury except an old black scar in the right hand of Nuruzzaman. The autopsy conducted by the Forensic Department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, however, showed that Nuruzzaman died following torture resulting in internal haemorrhage.

Police filed a murder case with Sutrapur thana Friday after the autopsy report said it was a case of homicide.

JS snippets

By Nazmul Ashraf

One of the hanging bulbs inside the House suddenly blasted and fell just behind the chair of Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Delwar Hossain Saidee while the parliament session was in progress yesterday.

Panicked by this, Saidee and BNP deputy Abdul Mannan who was sitting next to him, jumped up while others around rushed to them. Saidee then sat on another chair behind that of him-self while Mannan remained in his own.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid, who was in the chair, said "It's nothing... a bulb has blasted on expiry of its life, may be due to voltage fluctuation." He then told the panicked members, "Don't worry. The Energy Minister is there... also the works minister. Please go back to your respective seats."

Taking the floor, Works Minister Mohammad Nasim regretted the incident but smilingly asked why did it fall near Saidee Shahab?

Nasim, Treasury Bench whip Mizanur Rahman Manu and Col (ret) Akbar Hossain of BNP then walked to the spot and talked to the panicked members.

Taking part in general discussion on the proposed budget, State Minister for Land Rashid Mosharraf said "The first-class-first Finance Minister has presented a first class budget. It's the third class people who can't understand it."

Earlier, many BNP legislators said in the House the first-class-first Finance Minister placed a third class budget.

AL Lawmaker Ruhul Amin Madani regretted that despite assurance by H M Ershad and Begum Khaleda Zia while they were in power and incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a school in his area - Trishal in Mymensingh - has not yet been nationalised. Late journalist-litterateur and politician Abul Mansur Ahmed and many other noted personalities were once students of that school, he pointed out.

Similarly, another ruling party MP, Khan Tipu Sultan, regretted that roads in his constituency in Jessore were not developed during BNP rule and the same is the case even under the rule of his own party.

50 injured as JCD, BCL clash in Sirajganj College

SIRAJGANJ, June 23: A clash between Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in Sirajganj University College here left 50 activists injured today, reports UNB.

The clash erupted in the college over the strike called by the JCD in all the educational institutions of the country.

Several bombs were exploded during the clash that ensued when two rival processions of JCD and BCL came face to face. Police resorted to lathi charge and lobbed tear gas shells to bring the situation under control. Seven JCD workers including its district secretary general Rashedul Hasan were also arrested.

DU strike

From page 1

on opposition leaders and works. Otherwise, they would be compelled to wage a tougher action programme, they said.

The rally was also addressed by JCD general secretary Habib-un-Nabi Sohel, Abdul Khaleq, Shahabuddin Laitu, Monwar Hossain Rana, Selimuzzaman Selim, Nurul Haq Zitu, Jayanta Kundu and Basir Ahmed.

Housewife

From page 1

jury on her face at her house in New Eskaton in the early hours of yesterday. In another incident, a rice trader, Abdur Razzak, 35, was stabbed to death by an unidentified gang at Shabubjagh in the afternoon.

Police said that Ferdousi, wife of Tajul Islam, was found dead inside a bathroom of their third-floor apartment. Only a mark of cut injury was found on her face. On information, Ramna police rushed to the spot at about 2 am and sent the body to the DMCH for autopsy. Tajul filed a case with Ramna thana in this connection.

Quoting the FIR, police said that Tajul went out of the house at about 6 am Sunday. He returned at about 1 am yesterday and found some blood on the floor of their bed room. The bathroom was closed from inside. Police broke open the door of the bathroom and recovered the body.

Norion was arrested in this connection till last night.

Abdur Razzak was stabbed in the chest while he was standing in front of his rice shop at Nandipara Bazar in Shabubjagh at about 6 pm. He died while being taken to the DMCH.

The reason behind the attack on Razzak, a resident of Madartek, could not be known. No case was lodged or none was arrested in this connection till last night, police said.

Nooruddin explains in JS Power tariff raised thrice after a gap of 6 yrs

Power tariffs were increased thrice in six months till March this year, after a gap of more than six years, Energy Minister Mohammad Nooruddin Khan said in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, report agencies.

Replying to a question from Harunur Rashid Khan Monno (BNP-Manikganj), the minister said power tariffs were raised by 10 per cent in October 1996 and by 5 per cent in December of the same year.

The tariffs were again raised by Tk 0.05 per unit in March this year, he said.

The energy minister said the last time power tariff was increased by 10.4 per cent in July 1990 while prices of electricity for certain subscriber groups were adjusted downward in September 1991.

Royalty on cargo services of foreign airlines to go, JS told

Royalty on cargo services of foreign airlines will be withdrawn as a step to encourage exports and to attract foreign investment in the country, the Jatiya Sangsad told yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to Zainal Abedin Hajari (AL-Feni), Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed said a set of measures have been taken to net foreign private capital, strengthen the private sector and encourage exports.

Sugar

The country's sugar mills incurred an annual loss of Taka 38.56 crore on an average during the last five years, Tofael Ahmed told the Jatiya Sangsad.

Replying to a question from Mohammad Imdadul Haq (AL-Thakurgaon), the Industries Minister said four sugar mills will be privatised during the current year. However, privatisation of Panchagarh sugar mills has been deferred by a year.

Fertiliser

Tofael told the Jatiya Sangsad that the target for fertiliser production during the 1996-97 fiscal was fixed at 21,00,000 metric tons.

He said according to the Ministry of Agriculture, the demand for fertiliser during that fiscal was 23,00,000 metric tons.

But the target was revised at 18,35,000 metric tons and the actual production was 15,78,690 metric tons till June 15 this year, he said in reply to a question from BNP legislator Shahiduzzaman (Jhenidah).

Steps taken to ensure free, fair by-polls: CEC

The Election Commission has taken necessary steps to ensure a free and fair by-election in Manikganj-3 constituency scheduled for June 30, reports UNB.

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena said this while addressing the members of the central election monitoring team in the city yesterday.

The team has been formed with representatives of different political parties participating in the by-polls.

Fifteen mobile units of the law-enforcing agencies will work there in addition to reserve force for tackling any emergency situation, the CEC said.

He said army units, if necessary, will be deployed in Manikganj and Sattaria thana headquarters to help the civil administration.

A two-member enquiry committee has been formed with district election officials to probe any election irregularities, Abu Hena said.

Election Commissioners Abdur Rahman and Mushtaq Hossain Chowdhury, Muzaffar Hossain Paltu of Awami League, M K Anwar MP and Ziaur Rahman MP of BNP, Manirul Huq Chowdhury of Jatiya Party, Abdul Malek Ratan of Samajtantrik Dal (Rob), Zahidul Islam of Krishak Samik Mukti Andolan and Secretary of the Election Commission Secretariat M M Reza were present during the discussion.

Khaleda: Year of slavery

From page 1

wheel of the economy moving backwards and the government "imposing new taxes to make the poor poorer."

Poverty cannot be alleviated by imposing taxes and surcharge, she said.

She accused the government of conspiring in a very planned way to make Bangladesh into a market of India. United movement is the only way to stop the conspiracies, she said.

The BNP Chairperson said the government has completely failed to initiate any development activities in last one year. "Instead, it has presented the nation with killing, repression, torture and arrest."

In one year, she alleged, this government has lodged false cases against some 10,000 leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations.

"Today the time has come to take the account of what the government has done in one year," she said.

Defending the latest hike in the power tariff, Khan said the adjustments had become necessary due to increased overall expenditure for generation, transmission and distribution caused by rise in fuel price and inflation since 1991.

Gasfields

Nooruddin Khan yesterday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that the number of gasfields so far discovered in the country is 20.

Replying to a question from Awami League member M Shahjahan (Sirajganj-6), the minister said recoverable gas in these fields has been estimated at 10,884 trillion cubic feet (till December last year).

The number of wells in the 20 gas fields are 51, the minister said.

Rooppur project

Nooruddin also told the Jatiya Sangsad some foreign sponsors have shown initial interest in Rooppur Atomic Energy Project.

Replying to a question from AL member Ahmed Tazuddin, the minister said if there is progress through discussion, an agreement will be signed in this regard.

He said feasibility study is being carried out on supply of technology and fund for preparing a comprehensive plan for the project.

302 daily newspapers in country

The number of daily newspapers in the country is 302, State Minister for Information Prof Abul Sayeed informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from AL member Shah Alam Advocate (Brahmanbaria), he said the number of weeklies recorded is 743. Besides, there are five bi-weeklies, 162 fortnightly and 341 monthlies in the country.

To another question from AL member Dipankar Talukder (Rangamat), the state minister said seven newspapers, including three dailies, are published from Rangamat district, the number of weeklies that come out from the district is three. There is one fortnightly in Rangamat.

Face the People

From page 1

Anisul Haq conducted the programme.

Haq started the exciting question-answer session by throwing the first question: What was the most success and what was the biggest mistake the Prime Minister had made in last one year?

A confident Hasina replied: Resurrection of the Bangladeshi nation, its glorious history and heritage and restoration of the true spirit of the heroic war of liberation was perhaps the success of my government.

About the biggest mistake, she, however, said people would judge the failure of her government.

The experts panel put a total of 24 questions to the Prime Minister. They were: The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, Dr Devapriya Bhattacharya of BIDS, Dr Mahmuda Islam of Dhaka University, Golam Sarwar, News Editor of daily Ittefaq and educationist Dr Abdullah Al Muti Sharifuddin.

Presenter Anisul Haq asked six questions, while four came through phone and fax. The audience present at the BTV auditorium put another 8 questions to the Prime Minister.

A unique question came from Tanak, a student of class three, who sent his query through fax. He wanted to know from the Prime Minister if Bangladesh cricket team would be able to clinch the forthcoming Asia Cup like the ICC Trophy.

The programme organised for the Prime Minister of the second time was also broadcast live by Bangladesh Betar. The last question came from Devapriya Bhattacharya regarding the pay commission.

Nearly five crore people watched the programme which was aimed at demonstrating the government's effort to establish its transparency and accountability to the people.

lating the share market and signing a sham treaty in the name of resolving the Ganges water problem.

She also bitterly criticised the government for its failure on question paper leakage, for the electricity crisis and formation of the sub-regional grouping against the interest of the country.

Referring to the fire at Magurchhara gasfield, the Leader of the Opposition said that already crores of taka worth of natural resources have been destroyed and the fire is still on.

But the government, she said, is yet to take any effective measure to stop the flame of the field.

Presided over by district BNP convenor Mohammad Shahjahan MP, the meeting was also addressed by Moudud Ahmed, Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury MP, Mirza Abbas, Goyeshwar Chandra Roy and BNP MP Mahbubur Rahman, Barkatullah Bhuiul, Joyanal Abedin Faruq, Fazul Azim, Ziaul Haq Zia and Mosharraf Hossain.



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Let's make things better
PHILIPS

Krajicek in Round 2

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan

LONDON, June 23: In a rain interrupted opening match of the Wimbledon Championships at the Centre Court, defending champion Richard Krajicek easily defeated his unknown German opponent M Craca, who never before had played a Grand Slam match. Krajicek closed the match at 7-6, 6-2, 6-4 to move into the second round. In another match at the newly laid Court No 1 Britain's hope Tim Henman defeated D Nestor of Canada in straight sets.

Lord's Test

England 169/1 at tea

LONDON, June 23: Stubborn half centuries from openers Mark Butcher and Michael Atherton have all but killed any hopes Australia had of forcing a victory in the second Test at Lord's Monday, reports AP.

England, forced to save the Test after Australia had declared on their overnight 213 for seven — with a 136-run lead — were 169 for one at tea on the final day.

The wicket of England captain Atherton (77) was the only to fall in two sessions of play, with Butcher heading to the second break unbeaten on 66 and Alec Stewart three not out.

Atherton's vision of his first Test century at Lord's vanished just 15 minutes before the tea break, when he turned medium-pace Michael Kasprowicz to fine leg, but then trod on his stumps as he set off for a run.

Rina Sultana files money suit against Banglabazar editor, publisher

Rina Sultana Kibria has filed a money suit against editor Matur Rahman Chowdhury and publisher Zakaria Khan of the Banglabazar Patrika, for publishing on April 7 a false, concocted and defamatory news item, reports UNB.

A press release signed by Rina Sultana, the wife of Finance Minister's son Dr Reza Kibria, said she filed the money suit with the Fourth Court of the Subordinate Judge, Dhaka, on June 15, seeking damages of Tk 5 crore for the news "written to harass her and to undermine her reputation and that of her family."

Two other money suits for recovery of damages for defamatory statements have also been filed by Rina Sultana against AR Atique, editor and Kamrun Nahar, executive editor and publisher of "The Share Bazar", a fortnightly news magazine, and Prof Md Harun-ur-Rashid, editor, and Mahbuba Chowdhury, publisher of the Manav Zameen, a Bengali weekly magazine.

Rina Sultana is a television and radio newscaster.

Indo-Pak talks

From page 1

have successfully completed first stage of the task entrusted to us by our two prime ministers Ahmad told a joint news conference.

"As you will note, the two sides have agreed to address all outstanding issues with a view to achieving the goal of good neighbourly and cooperative relations," he said.

"We hope the mechanism on which we have agreed will initiate progress towards the settlement of all outstanding issues listed in the joint statement."

"On our part, we will continue the dialogue with sincerity and serious purpose, we have no illusions about the complexity of the work ahead of us."

"It's important for both sides now to take steps to create conditions conducive to make the process purposeful and result-oriented," Ahmad added.

His Indian counterpart said the agreement "provides the basis for comprehensive, constructive and sustained dialogue between India and Pakistan."

"It is our purpose that the dialogue leads to establishment of trust, friendship and cooperation between the two countries."

The foreign secretaries met in March, followed by a meeting between Sharif and his Indian counterpart.

In the weeks leading up to the latest round of talks that began on Friday in Islamabad, tempers had begun to rise as reports surfaced that India had deployed its long-range Prithvi missile on the border with Pakistan.

Cloning

From page 1

research and called on private institutions to observe the ban. He also said he would press other countries to impose similar restrictions.

Britain, Denmark, Germany, Australia and Spain are among the countries that have already banned human cloning.

Laloo Prasad charged in corruption case

NEW DELHI, June 23: The head of the party leading India's multi-party government was charged with corruption today, party officials said, sparking fears the coalition could be undermined, reports AFP.

Laloo Prasad Yadav, president of Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's Janata Dal (people's party), was charged for alleged involvement in a 271 million US dollar corruption scandal dating back to the late 1970s.

The United News of India (UNI) reported that 55 other politicians — including a former chief minister and a former public meeting at Manikganj today.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting at Sattaria High School in Manikganj-3 constituency at 3 pm today, reports UNB.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, standing committee member Khandaker Delwar Hossain and central leaders will address the meeting to be held in favour of BNP candidate Advocate Abdul Wahab Khan.

Hospital sources said, Nasrin jumped from the rooftop of their three-storey building at their 12 noon. She succumbed to her wounds at Dhaka Medical College Hospital at about 4 pm.

The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. A UD case was filed.

Gas well

From page 1

steady decline. We are hopeful of beginning the operation to seal the well in a couple of days," the source said.

The first plan will be to identify the original well shell, pump in drill mud and finally seal the well with cement plug. This plan will be implemented only if the fire remains under control.

If the situation favours, it will take only a week to seal the well. This plan will cost a little, compared to the second plan.

The second plan involves