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**PM tells Chinese trade team
Govt has created congenial atmosphere for investment**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has created a congenial atmosphere for foreign investment in the country, reports BSS.

She said after coming to power her government has been attaching highest priority to develop the economy of the country.

The prime minister was talking to vice chairman of the Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) of China An Chengxin, who accompanied by some senior members of his 31-member delegation called on her at her Jatiya Sangsad office yesterday.

The delegation, which arrived Wednesday on a six-day visit, will explore the possibilities of Chinese investment and trade in Bangladesh.

Welcoming the delegation, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh rates friendship with China very high.

She said her first official visit to China is an ample testimony of how Bangladesh values the friendship with China. She said during her visit she exchanged views with Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng and President Jiang Zemin on development of trade and business between the two countries.

An Chengxin said during their visit they will be able to have a clear idea as well as picture on how best they could contribute to the development of the economy of friendly country Bangladesh.

He expressed the hope that the close ties between the two countries would be further strengthened in the days to come. He also expressed the hope that the volume of trade which was Taka 70 crore would be further increased. He said there was tremendous scope for increased cooperation in the field of trade and commerce.

Yusuf Abdullah Haroon, President of FBCCI, Zupeng, Vice President of China State Construction Corporation and Wang Chungui, Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh were, among others, present.

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BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia addressing an election projection meeting at the Government Debendra College ground at Manikganj yesterday.

Khaleda: Arms coming

The former Premier referred to the unprecedented question leakage and massive unfairness in SSC and HSC examinations.

Both the question leakage and allowing students to adopt unfair means were done in a very planned way to destroy the education system in the country and force the rich people to send their wards to India for studies.

The ruling party is not interested to allow the children of poor people to be educated.

Turning to extortion, she said not only the businessmen, government officials, employees and other servicemen were falling victim to toll collection by the ruling party "terrorists", small traders, shopkeepers, grocers also have to pay toll to the government partymen everyday, she alleged.

Referring to the childlifting phobia across the country, Begum Zia said this also reminded the people of the days of "horror" during 1972-1975 rule.

She said the immediate post-liberation Awami League had raised various private forces and let loose "a reign of terror" and this time the party started "looting, killing, repression" in the name of their original party.

The government is also

Diarrhoea claims 15 in Noakhali in a week

MAJDEE COURT (Noakhali), June 26: Diarrhoea claimed 15 people and affected 2,973 others in last seven days in six thanas of the district till Wednesday, according to official sources, reports UNB.

Sources said in last six months 24,002 people were attacked by the disease and 130 were killed in the six thanas. But, unofficial sources said 40,000 people were affected and 250 died of the disease.

The six thanas are Sadar, Hatiya, Begumganj, Chatkhel, Senbagh and Companiganj.

A total of 107 teams have been working in the district to contain the spread of the disease.

Barisal PP

filed by Ahsan Habib Kamal, Chairman, Barisal Pourashava and also passed the order of stay.

Advocate Nizamul Huq Nasim and Advocate Md Asaduzzaman moved for Golam Abbas Chowdhury while Senior Advocate Habibur Islam Bhuiyan assisted by Advocate S K Majumder and S M Rezaul Karim appeared for the writ petitioner.

EC warning

From page 1
Election Code of Conduct while the BNP and JP candidates the sub-clause (10) of the clause 5, said an EC press release yesterday.

The EC directed the Awami League nominee Col (ret) Abdul Malek, BNP candidate Abdul Wahab Khan and Jatiya Party nominee M Ramjan Ali to refrain from such activities in future, or else, they would be fined.

The Election Enquiry Committee, constituted on May 29 comprising two judges, has so far received 12 allegations against the contestants and three of those were found factual after immediate investigation.

The committee submitted recommendations to the Election Commission to take necessary steps in this regard and subsequently the EC issued the warnings against the three candidates.

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Tk 16.57 cr JU budget

By JU Correspondent
A Tk 16.57 crore budget with a revenue deficit of Tk 1.86 crore for the fiscal 1997-98 of Jahangirnagar University (JU) was approved yesterday.

The Senate approved the budget after a brief discussion.

Treasurer Abdul Bayes presented the budget before the Senate session with JU VC Prof. Amirul Islam Chowdhury in the chair. Earlier, the budget was okayed by the JU Syndicate.

Around 70 per cent of the budget allocation will be spent for salaries and allowances, 13 per cent for transport, electricity and telephone and 1.5 per cent for research work.

The allocation for scholarship has been raised from Tk. 14.33 lacs to Tk. 17.03 lacs.

Meanwhile, Tk 8.70 crore has been proposed for the ADP in the fiscal 1997-98 for the construction of Arts Faculty, Life Science Institute, residential buildings for teachers and officials and importing books, periodicals and scientific equipment.

Zillur for effective steps against vote rigging

By Staff Correspondent
Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman in a statement yesterday called for effective steps against any vote rigging in the coming byelection in Manikganj.

He urged the Election Commission to take necessary steps, including arrangements for election monitoring by neutral observers and requested the people to be on guard against any terrorist activities on the polling day on June 30.

Zillur Rahman, also Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, said no ministers or state ministers had taken part in electioneering in Manikganj but, "We are observing that the Leader of the Opposition is participating in election campaign in Manikganj availing all government facilities including the vehicle flying the national flag."

PM: Japan

From page 1
She will hold bilateral discussion with her Japanese counterpart Hashimoto.

Economic issues, including Japan's aid commitment that was raised to 17 per cent from the 14 per cent, will dominate Hasina's agenda in her discussions with Hashimoto.

Hasina will seek new areas of cooperation with Japan in infrastructure building projects.

The Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary League, headed by Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka, will host a reception in her honour.

The Prime Minister will also meet the Bangladeshi community there.

The Waseda University of Tokyo will confer upon the Prime Minister an honorary Doctorate of Law in a simple ceremony on July 4.

A group of leading businessmen will accompany the Prime Minister to Japan. With them, she will attend a seminar on "Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh" and a business round table and will address both the events.

She will also meet a cross section of the press. The NHK television of Japan will interview the Prime Minister.

Outside Tokyo, Hasina will visit Niigata Prefecture and Kyoto.

The Prime Minister's entourage will include Finance Minister S A M S Kibria, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Principal Secretary to the PM Dr S A Samad and Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan.

She will return home on July 6.

Lounge

From page 1
try and links the entire south-west and north west regions by road — also lacks other essential amenities like drinking water, washing rooms, restaurant, first aid and fire fighting equipment.

According to DCC's terminal management sources, it earns about Tk 35,000 a day from the terminal as labour handling charges and vehicle parking fees.

Meanwhile, passengers alleged that the toilet at the terminal is also not fit for use.

A bad odour comes out from the toilet almost all the time, polluting the surrounding area. Even DCC officials admitted that materials supplied for toilet cleaning were not regularly used.

Maintenance of the toilet was leased to a contractor by the DCC for an annual fee of Tk 21 lakh. But the authorities failed to ensure that it is properly maintained.

Sea turtles

From page 1
Karo Kaitha, and their eggs are on sale in the markets in large quantities. This turtle weighs between 300 and 900 grams.

Up to May 1997, the Forestry Department issued licences for exporting 415 tonnes of Lissemys punctata, Kachuga Tecta and Geochelone elongata turtles.

The study says a massive quantity of turtles are smuggled through different points of the country. Since India and Nepal banned export of turtles, smugglers use Bangladesh as their transit point. Moreover, lack of monitoring allows traders to export rare varieties of turtles under the name of some common varieties.

Loadshedding Siddhirganj DESA office attacked

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, June 26: About one thousand people of Konapara, Matuail and Shimrail under Demra Thana brought out a procession yesterday protesting loadshedding in the area for the last five days and later attacked the DESA office at Siddhirganj.

The angry people damaged doors, windows and furniture of the office building and blocked the Narayanganj-Demra road for an hour in the morning. The traffic on the road remained suspended. Some vehicles were also damaged, according to witnesses.

Siddhirganj thana police lathcharged the protesters to disperse them and bring the situation under control.

Police arrested five persons. They are: Feroz Alam, Enamul Islam, Rashedul Hasan, Swapon and Istiyag Hasan Chunnu.

Alleged snatcher beaten, dies in hospital

An alleged snatcher, who was critically injured in a mob beating on Tuesday in the city, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Almas, 19, of Nasiruddin Sarak in Demra thana.

Parliament snippets

From page 1
Sangsad yesterday.

In his speech, Selim also castigated the Rajakars and named some of those in the Opposition bench for accusing his party of turning the country into an Indian state.

"We won't let any one convert the country into India. I hope you people (in BNP) will also refrain from attempts to make it Pakistan," he said.

Col (Ret) Oli Ahmed of BNP thanked Selim for blasting the Rajakars but advised the AL deputy to have a look on two of his party members, sitting behind him, before speaking so in future.

"Had Mr Selim's father-in-law Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury (a Bihar) been present in the House, he would be ashamed," Oli retorted.

Referring to Oli's rebuttal to Selim, Parliamentary Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister Suranjit Sengupta said, "You're among a few fortunate, having your father-in-law in a single life. You've put one in the camp of freedom fighters and the other in the Rajakar group."

Bir Bahadur of AL was surprised when the Deputy Speaker warned that he had only two minutes left of his allotted time.

Giving a pause, Bahadur cast a surprised look at the Chair. The AL lawmaker then commented, "I think you (the Deputy Speaker's) watch moves faster."

"It's not. Mine is OK. It's natural for someone to feel so whenever he is speaking," was the response from the Chair.

Before starting his discussion on the budget, BNP lawmaker Oli Ahmed thanked those who elected him from two constituencies in the last general elections.

Interrupting, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid said in a lighter vein, "Won't you thank those people again for also electing your wife?" Oli's wife Manalaz Begum was elected in by-election held at the seat he vacated.

Tk 403cr DCC budget

From page 1
litical parties. "We're working to this end at the instruction of the Prime Minister."

When asked about the rickshaws plying in the city streets under the authorisation of Rickshaw Samik League affiliated to ruling Awami League's labour front, Hanif said it's a challenge to DCC. "Police have been asked to pick up such rickshaws," said the mayor.

In the 1996-97 budget, Tk three crore was earmarked for the construction of a multi-storied car parking lot to ease the city's traffic jam. The allocation was cut in the revised budget.

The mayor said the project was not implemented as grants from donors was not available. "We have a plan to go into action as soon as we receive the grants."

According to the 1997-98 budget, Tk 188.71 crore will be available from DCC's own income while Tk 104 crore will come from the government and foreign donors and the corporation's housing project. DCC's income target includes Tk 96 crore from holding taxes.

It has allocated Tk 263.15 crore for city's road development and repairing, construction and renovation of drain, and electricity. The allocation for anti-mosquito drive is Tk 6.15 crore.

The mayor said Tk 8 crore has been allocated in the budget for the development of footpaths of city's important roads and turning points to ease traffic jam.

An amount of Tk 15 crore has been allocated for bazar development. Tk 10 crore for housing complex, Tk 9 crore for construction of community centres, Tk 8 crore for implementing special development projects, Tk 3 crore for electrification in markets, Tk 4 crore for increasing city's street lights and Tk 50 lakh for afforestation.

Besides, Tk 1.4 crore has been allocated for self-employment of slum dwellers and Tk 54 lakh for rehabilitation of street urchins.

Ward commissioners and senior officials of the city corporation were present at the press conference.

Reduce burden of syllabus in pry schools: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has stressed the need for appointing required number of teachers including women teachers in the primary schools and also for reducing the burden of syllabus at the primary level, reports BSS.

She also called for bringing similarities in the education system in all the schools including public, private and kindergartens.

The Prime Minister was presiding over the first meeting of the National Primary and Mass Education Committee in the city yesterday.

The meeting, which lasted for about two hours, discussed the present situation in primary education, identified the problems and suggested measures to implement the programme to attain literacy for all within the next ten years.

The Prime Minister said her government is determined to remove the curse of illiteracy from society and stop the increasing number of drop-outs at the primary level. In this connection, she called for launching a social movement in favour of education for all.

Death of Shima
JS probe body to submit report soon

The parliamentary probe committee on Shima's death held its fifth meeting at Sangsad Bhavan yesterday with its Chairman Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting reviewed information about the death of garments worker Shima Chowdhury in safe custody in Chittagong Jail. The committee members gathered this information during their recent visit to Chittagong.

It also discussed the police investigation including First Information Report and decided to submit its report "as early as possible."

Members of the committee Col (Ret) Shaukat Ali, Fazle Rabbi, Salauddin Kader Chowdhury, Akhteruzzaman and Prof Khaleda Khanam attended the meeting.

DU Senate session tomorrow

The annual session of the Dhaka University senate will be held at 3:30 pm tomorrow at the conference room of administrative building of the university, reports UNB.

Budget of the university for fiscal 1997-98 will be placed at the session, said a DU press release issued yesterday.

Other agenda included approval of proceedings of last annual, special and requisition sessions of the Senate and consideration of annual report of the university's 1995-96 academic session.

Farmer killed in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, June 26: A farmer was killed today by some unidentified miscreants at Kudrasna village in Tarash thana, reports UNB.

Police sources said, Abdur Rahman, 30, was stabbed to death by some people when he was harvesting at his paddy field at 7 in the morning.

Meanwhile, police arrested one Joydeb Chandra, 40, of the same village.

Manikganj bypolls EC to announce results from 5 pm

Election Commission (EC) will announce the results of Manikganj-3 byelection, scheduled for Monday, through various news media from its 'Result Collection and Presentation Centre' from 5 pm on the day, reports UNB.

BTV will broadcast the results in its regular news bulletins, said an EC press release yesterday.

To bring transparency in publishing the election results, the EC also invited two representatives from each interested political party, newspaper and news agency to come to the centre to observe and collect the results.

Pass will be provided to the interested persons from the Election Commission.

Meanwhile, EC yesterday held a meeting to exchange opinion with the election observers from home and abroad of the byelection.

CCC budget

From page 1
begin soon on the construction of four multistoried commercial buildings at a cost of Tk 46 crore 32 lakh on turn-key basis at Agrabad, Patantull and Bagmorum ward.

Plans are also underway to construct a fly-over at the Dewanhat crossing and a marine drive over the 20-kilometre protection embankment starting from Patenga to Fouzderhat, he said.

The mayor said a memorandum of understanding has already been signed with a North Korean firm to construct a satellite town.

In the new budget, revenue income has been estimated at Tk 99.85 crore while expenditure at Tk 58.80 crore. Tk 115 crore will come from the government.

Tk 133.05 crore has been allocated for annual development projects. The mayor said, work order of 698 projects involving Tk 46 crore already been given.

A revised budget of Tk 161.56 crore for the outgoing fiscal year 1996-97 was also announced by the mayor.

SC: Promotion

From page 1
High Court Justice Nayemuddin Ahmed and Hamidul Huq submitted before the court that mass promotion was given with a political motive in order to politicise the administration by the BNP government.

The process of mass promotion was unconstitutional and was not bearing any guideline and suffer from arbitrary action of the past government," he said.

Budget discussion

From page 1
Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Oil Ahmed and Kazi Golam Morshed of BNP, Raushan Ershad, Abdul Mukit Khan, Ahsan Ahmed, Dr M Asadur Rahman and Abu Lais M Mubin Chowdhury of Jatiya Party from the opposition bench.

From the government side are PM's Parliamentary Adviser Suranjit Sengupta, State Minister for Labour M A Mannan, Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim, AKM Shamim Osman, Mokbul Hossain, Khan Tipu Sultan, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and AKM Jahangir Hossain.

BNP lawmaker Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain criticised the proposed budget as opposed to industrial growth and expressed doubt about government's claim of achieving 5.7 per cent growth in 1996-97.

He painted a dismal picture of the national economy during the first one year of Awami League rule, saying that there was no substantial foreign investment and foreign exchange reserves drastically decreased. The BNP legislator also said Taka was devalued seven times in the last one year and private sector was deprived of bank loans because of over-borrowing by the government. He noted that the capital market debacle was the 'biggest failure' of this government.

Treasury Bench legislator Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim praised the budgetary allocations for employment bank and allowance for aged people and said, various programmes involving Tk 6,420 crore would directly help alleviate poverty.

He justified extension of tax base noting that in this country of 120 million people, there are only six lakh tax payers. "If we want to do good to people, imposition of taxes is a must," he argued.

Jatiya Party lawmaker Begum Raushan Ershad requested the finance minister to withdraw taxes on by-cycle chain, soap and birded wire and exempt telephone subscribers, at least those not having ISD lines, from the compulsion of submitting tax returns.

House of Rajshahi BNP leader ransacked

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAH, June 26: The house of former MP and general secretary of BNP city unit was ransacked by some miscreants yesterday.

Two groups of people of Chandipur in the city were locked in a clash and some people attacked Azizur Rahman's house. Some shops were also ransacked.

Tk 5 lakh looted in city

Miscreants looted cash and valuables worth more than Tk five lakh in separate incidents in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

A group of armed miscreants stormed a travel agency, EP Travels, at Maghbarat at about 3:30 pm, ransacked its furniture and took away cash Tk 1.2 lakh.

Sakhawat Hossain Selim, owner of the agency, filed a case with Ramna thana in this connection.

In another incident, dacoits broke into a house in Uttara at about 3 am and looted cash and gold ornaments worth about 3.85 lakh.

Khandaker Moazzem Hossain, owner of the house no 18, road number 3 of Uttara sector 4, filed a case in this connection.

Anti-Corruption Bureau has 3225 cases for enquiry

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption has a total of 3,225 cases in hand for enquiry, including 690 cases filed in 17 months since January 1996, reports UNB.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed said this in parliament yesterday, replying to a question from Moulana Delwar Hossain Saidee (Jamaat-Pirojpur).

Enquiry reports of 999 cases have been submitted in these 17 months, said Tofael who is in charge of the Prime Minister's Office in Parliament.

He said among the accused in the cases enquiry reports of which were submitted, 63 are first class gazetted officers.

Magurchhara Ershad

From page 1
the huge explosion and fire in the Magurchhara gas field in the early hours of June 15.

An official in Moulvibazar told this correspondent that the engineering section of the Bangladesh Railway will resume renovation work on the damaged portion of rail tracks in between the Srimangal and Bhanugachh stations from tomorrow morning.

The Divisional Engineer of Railway said it may take two to three days to complete the repair work.

Meanwhile, shifting of the base camp of Occidental is going on in full swing and it is expected to be completed within two days. Preparatory measures were also going on to install the deviation well at the present base camp.

4 more cos

From page 1
on a positive note.

Among the four new companies, Uttara Finance and Investment will offer IPOs of Tk four crore to the general public and Tk two crore to other categories like non-resident Bangladeshis and foreign investors. Its offer will open on July 6 and close on July 15.

Shamorita Hospital Ltd's offering to the general public is Tk 1.5 crore and for others Tk 1.5 crore. It opens on July 7 and closes on July 16.

Gem Knitwear Fabrics Co Ltd is offering Tk 75 lakh to the general public and Tk 25 lakh to others. It opens on July 15 and closes on July 24.

Kamal Textile is coming with Tk 6.45 crore to the general public and Tk 2.15 crore to others. Subscription opens on August 4 and closes on August 13.

The Rose Heaven Ball Pen is likely to offer Tk 7.5 crore for the public subscription, opening sometime towards the end of July or early in August.

Badda incident: 32 held

From page 1
Eighteen policemen were injured in the clashes. Four persons were also hospitalised with bullet wounds from the area.

Three different versions of the incident were received during a visit to the area. Gulshan police officer Shafi said they had heard that the three men, two in their twenties and one elderly, had come to the area to recover a personal loan from a person.

Another policeman supported Shafi's statement and said, "It was a well-planned attack to take personal revenge."

Local people said the three persons tried to convince several parents at a school near Uttar Badda "to take divine blessing for their children". The parents and passers-by got suspicious and eventually the three were chased, apprehended and killed.

The third story comes from the shopkeepers on the Progati Swaroni who claimed the three had come to the area to raise money for construction of a mosque in Sylhet.

But parents at different schools yesterday said the public were forced to take the law in their own hands as police failed to do anything to stop child lifting.

"We live in terror. Day and night we hear people talking to announce a missing child, this has been going on and on. How do you expect us to respect the police who fail to protect us?" asked Mrs Sarwar, who came to pick her child yesterday from a Dhanmondi school.

With the killing of the three suspects on Wednesday, at least ten people, including two women, were killed by furious mobs on suspicion of child lifting at different parts of the country during the current month.

During the same period, police rescued 10 children and arrested at least 40 people on charges of child lifting, kidnapping, and child trafficking in the country.

Most of the incidents of such violence and arrests related to alleged child lifting were reported from Tangail, Gazipur, Manikganj, Sylhet, Rangamati, Akhaura and Bogra.