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JS budget discussion

From page 1

criticised the opposition BNP for the latter's critical attitude towards the proposed budget. Claiming that the government had allocated Tk 6,430 crore for poverty alleviation, the minister said that his party was committed to change the lot of the toiling masses.

Referring to the BNP criticism that the AL was pursuing a subservient foreign and economic policy towards India, the state minister said that it was rather BNP that had turned the country into a market of Indian commodities.

He also said that the government had rightly decided to go for sub-regional grouping with India and Nepal. "It would substantially help us resolve the country's land and power crisis."

BNP legislator Obaidur Rahman accused alleged that the government was not making any effort for development of areas from where BNP law-

Khaleda

From page 1

those would increase sufferings of commonman.

Welcoming the freshers, she said as a people's party the BNP has been working relentlessly in the greater interest of the people. The BNP will not hesitate to launch a mass movement against those who will work against the country and its people, she added.

Begum Zia said the government completely failed to do any welfare of the people in last one year and the economy of the country is now on the verge of ruination due to wrong policies pursued by the ruling party.

She said the new budget will ruin the economy. Imposition of unprecedented taxes on flourishing industries will destroy this sector and encourage smuggling and Bangladesh will be made a market of India.

SKOP

From page 1

tories, withdrawal of cases against trade union leaders and release of jailed ones and re-drafting of a democratic labour law.

Mokhlesur Rahman, President of the Coordination Committee of SKOP announced the programme at the press conference. He said their action plan was drawn on the basis of opinion given by representatives of workers and employees at a national convention in Dhaka on June 25.

The SKOP programme includes demonstrations before the Labour Directorate on July 14, before the Bangladesh Employers Association office on July 20, in front of the BGMEA office on July 24 and torch procession on July 28.

CEC

From page 1

The Manikganj-3 seat fell vacant following the death of BNP MP Nizamuddin Khan on April 8. The constituency comprises nine unions under Satu thana and seven unions under Sadar thana. Of the 1,79,286 registered voters, 92,037 are female and 87,249 are male.

Of the six candidates contesting the by-polls, Abdul Wahab Khan was nominated by the BNP, Col (retd) Abdul Maiek by AL and Mohammad Ramzan Ali by Jatiya Party and MH Khan Mojlish (Murad) by JSD (Rob). The two others are Kartik Chandra Saha, independent, and Mohammad Sadek of Krishak Sramik Andolok.

Hasina will attend receptions to be hosted by Japanese Bangladesh Parliamentary League, Japan-Bangladesh Association and Japan-Bangladesh Ladies' Cultural Association.

She will return to Dhaka on June 6 at midnight.

Industry to remain shut if 'criminals' not held: Monno

The management of Monno Ceramic, country's biggest ceramic industry, said it would not be possible for them to remain it until the 'identified terrorists' who ransacked the factory are arrested, reports UNB.

The industry will remain closed as long as the terrorists who badly damaged the cent per cent export-oriented national asset remain at large," said Harunur Rashid Khan Monno, MP, the owner.

Demanding allocation of Taka one crore for rehabilitation of the sex workers, JP lawmaker Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan said that it was inhuman to evict them from Kandupatti in the city without making arrangements for their rehabilitation.

JCD-BCL clash in Daudkandi

COMILLA, June 28: Five students were injured in a clash between pro-Awami League Chhatra League and BNP-backed JCD at Gouripur Munshi Fazlur Rahman College in Daudkandi today, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, the clash erupted at around 11:30 am when some activists of JCD attacked a BCL procession on the campus.

The injured were admitted to local health complex. Of them, local BCL secretary Billal Hossain was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, traffic movement on Dhaka-Chittagong highway was disrupted for an hour when students of Nimshar Janab Ali College put up barricade at 12 noon to protest the postponement of the student union election of the college.

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Special Filter

5 kidnapped men rescued in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, June 28: Five men who were kidnapped by tribal insurgents were rescued from a deep forest in Nanchar thana in the district today, security sources said, reports UNB.

They said some tribal youths intercepted a Chittagong-bound truck putting up barricade on the road at about 11 am and forcibly took six men including the truck driver and his helper to the remote forest.

Helper Abul Kalam, 25, however, managed to flee from the miscreants and informed the police about the incident.

In a joint operation, police and army rescued the rest five from the forest, they said, were identified as truck driver Ajit Kumar, 32, and traders Sirajul Islam, 34, Kawser Miah, 26, Khaleda, 32, and Parimol, 27.

Shop, house looted in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 28: A group of forty miscreants attacked the shop and residence of one Jogadis Dhar at North Jaldi village under Banskhali thana last night, police said.

They looted gold ornaments and cash money amounting to about taka 5 lakh, police said.

DU: Inqilab

From page 1

The Senate also formed a nine-member committee to bring the Kataban Mosque under the control of the University.

DU Senate formed the committee following the acceptance of a proposal placed by a senator at the annual budget session of the university at Senate Hall this evening Habibur Rahman Khan was made convener.

The other members of the committee are: Prof KAM Saaduddin, Prof Shahadat Ali, KM Jahangir MP, Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Sirajul Islam Khan, Harunur Rashid, Sayeed Reazur Rahman and Prof Abdul Manan Chowdhury.

The Kantaban Mosque, now under the control of Chhatra Shibir and Jamaat-e-Islam for a long time, is a property of Dhaka University.

Magurjhara fire

From page 1

caused the explosion.

Michel said that the Magurjhara gasfield would not be abandoned. But, "after fully dousing the fire and capping the mouth of the well, we will go for fresh drilling at a nearby place."

Shamsuddin Associates, a Bangladeshi firm which was entrusted with the task of construction of the rig foundation of the Magurjhara well, has again been asked to construct the rig foundation for the deviation well and base camp.

Meanwhile, the enquiry committee formed to investigate the incident of explosion in the drilling site has sought extension of time for submission of its report, according to official sources. The committee was given time until June 30 to submit its report.

BNP violating election code, AL complains

The Awami League yesterday lodged complaints with the Election Commission against the BNP for violating election code of conduct in Manikganj-3 constituency, reports BSS.

A three-member delegation led by Abdul Mannan MP for Manikganj-3 constituency lodged the complaints of violation of election code of conduct by the BNP, said a press release.

In their complaint, the Awami League alleged that the Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad had used government vehicle carrying national flag and availed herself of all government facilities to address an electioneering meeting which, they said, were completely against election code of conduct.

The complaint said the Leader of the Opposition at the electioneering meeting openly instigated the party leaders and workers for creating terrorism and committing rigging in the by-polls. The BNP has conspired to let loose terrorism and clashes for vote dacoity during polling, the AL leaders alleged.

Prabhakaran to flee Lanka?

COLOMBO, June 28: Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), is reportedly attempting to flee to another country as he is unable to face the on going Jaya Sikuru (certain victory) operation in northern Sri Lanka, reports Xinhua.

The leader might escape together with his family to Cambodia, Laos or Myanmar, the newspaper the Daily News today quoted intelligence reports as saying.

The original plan, according to the paper, was to first send his family abroad, but this plan had failed.

Giasuddin Chy clarifies his role during '71

BNP MP Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury in parliament yesterday cleared his position and his whereabouts during the country's Liberation War in 1971, reports UNB.

"Treasury bench members often question some of us where we had been in 1971.... I must reply to this question," said Giasuddin, younger brother of Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, another BNP lawmaker.

Both are accused of collaborating with the Pakistani occupation army in 1971.

Giasuddin said, "I was in that sector where Faezul Huq (State Minister for Jute) had been at that time."

"Some of us were in that sector where the father-in-law of my beloved niece, Putul (PM's daughter), had served during 1971," he said amidst clapping by BNP legislators.

Both AK Faezul Huq, son of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq, and Putul's father-in-law, Mohammad Hossain, were said to have opposed the Liberation War.

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Foundation of Rokeya Memorial Centre laid at Pairaband

RANGPUR, June 28: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said effective laws would be enacted to stop women repression and terrorism so that the miscreants get punished quickly, reports UNB.

Measures are also being taken to stop child trafficking and to eradicate poverty of the womenfolk, she said addressing a gathering on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of Begum Rokeya Memorial Centre at Pairaband village.

The Prime Minister said the memorial centre will preserve the memories of Begum Rokeya and also spread her thoughts and literary works to the people.

The Begum Rokeya Memorial Centre, to be built at a cost of Tk 3.75 crore, will have an office room, a library, a museum, a training centre and a guest room.

The centre will also publish books on Begum Rokeya and sponsor fellowship for research in her works.

Hong Kong

From page 1

problem with the plan, and Liberal Party leader Allen Lee Peng-fei urged people not to be overly concerned. US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright also declined to criticise the deployment.

Hong Kong's incoming leader, Tung Chee-hwa, said the presence of Chinese troops was a necessary sign of Beijing's sovereignty, and said they would behave with restraint.

Under the terms of the handover, Hong Kong will be in charge of its domestic affairs, but Tung will be empowered to call in the army for help in the maintenance of public order.

In a TV interview with NBC, Tung was asked if troops could move against the people of Hong Kong without his consent. "They will not. They cannot," he replied.

Another hot-button issue is China's plan to replace Hong Kong's elected legislature with an unelected body pending fresh elections next year.

Saturday morning, at the end of its final 23-hour marathon session, lawmakers hugged, posed for group pictures, and promised to keep fighting for democracy.

Twenty-seven of them, including the harshest critics of China, are excluded.

"We will leave for the time being. But like MacArthur said, I shall return," said Martin Lee, leader of the Democrats, the largest party in the outgoing legislature.

PM urges EC to ensure

From page 1
any attempt of rigging in the by-election.

Hasina said the BNP chairman now became vocal against rigging, having been "champions of rigging elections." She alleged that the BNP had tried to remain in power through election fraud in February 15 election in 1996.

She said the only objective of the present government is to establish peace and stability in society for rapid economic growth and national development.

The Prime Minister said the opposition BNP had time and again said the Awami League was selling out the country. But she said, the party which has earned independence sacrificing lives can never sell out the interest of the nation.

Hasina said the party which was not born even at the time of liberation war was speaking about selling out of the country. "Rather, it's BNP which sold out the interest of the country," she said.

The BNP during its rule turned the local market into a market of Indian goods controlling import and export, she said. At that time, there was a ban from Indian side on the import of some 431 items from Bangladesh, she said, adding that we have made arrangement for the export of 500 items to India lifting that ban.

About local demand for upgrading the Carmichael College to a university, the Prime Minister said the government was

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