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JS budget discussion

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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 water 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

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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

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stories, 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

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The Manikganj-3 seat fell vacant following the death of BNP MP Nizamuddin Khan on April 8. The constituency comprises nine unions under Sattura 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 (ret'd) Abdul Malek 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 Mukti Andolon.

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 re-open 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.

Two accords

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gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

Hasina, as the coordinator of the LDCs, is expected to discuss with the leader of the economic super power the new international economic order, against the backdrop of the decisions of the just concluded G-7 summit.

Magurchhara fire

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caused the explosion," Michel said that the Magurchhara 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 the construction of the rig foundation of the Magurchhara 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.

5 kidnapped men rescued in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, June 28: Five men who were kidnapped by tribal insurgents were rescued from a deep forest in Naniar-char 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 Abdul 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 were identified as truck driver Ajit Kumar, 32, and traders Sirajul Islam, 34, Kawser Miah, 26, Khaleque, 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

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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.

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.

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 formally 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.

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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.

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.

Foundation of Rokeya Memorial Centre laid at Pairaband

RANGPUR, June 28: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina 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.



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PM urges EC to ensure

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any attempt of rigging in the byelection.

Hasina said the BNP chairperson 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.

Worldwide project

From page 1

lation."

Malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia and sleeping sickness were among the diseases that affect developing countries and are largely neglected, Feachem said.

Cardiovascular disease, diabetes, asthma, cancers and ailments of the elderly, such as Alzheimer's disease, are diseases affecting richer nations and receive the lion's share of global health research investments, he said.

The Forum included 150 representatives including the World Health Organization, the World Bank, research-oriented foundations, research institutes, private pharmaceutical companies and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

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