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India resumes construction of road along Patgram border

From Our Correspondent
 RANGPUR, July 9: Indian Roads and highways Department aided by Border Security Force (BSF) resumed construction of a road along the Zero point between international boundary pillars (Nos. 808 and 807) in Patgram defying protest by the BDR and local people. Indian authorities deployed additional BSF there to ensure construction work. This has caused a tense situation along the border area, said Patgram thana police. In the first week of June, India had tried to construct the road but it dropped the plan in face of strong protest from the BDR. The protest was followed by a flag meeting between the BDR and the BSF. But just one month after the talks India re-

BISTEC meet begins in Bangkok today

Establishment of a four-nation airlines will top the agenda of a diplomatic level meeting of BISTEC that begins in Bangkok today, reports UNB. The ambassadors of the BISTEC partner countries at their two-day meeting will also discuss promotion of cooperation in other specific sectors of the newly-created quadrangle. The BISTEC (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand-Economic Cooperation) emerged after a ministerial meeting of the four countries in the Thai capital early June. BISTEC also identified trade, economy, industry, environment, human resources and transport as its potential sectors of cooperation. The diplomats of the four South Asian nations will study the feasibility reports on the ESCAP assistance to the projects of BISTEC.

JS session likely to be prorogued today

The month-long budget session of Parliament is likely to be prorogued today, reports UNB. Finance Minister SAMS Kibria presented the national budget for 1997-98 in this session that began on June 10.

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Bangladesh beaten by 33 runs in warm-up tie Well played, but 2 key players hurt



SUMON

Sports Reporter
 Bangladesh were defeated in their first warm-up match against the Sri Lanka Cricket Board President's Eleven by 33 runs in a rain-reduced affair in Colombo, according to a faxed message received here yesterday. But, worse than their defeat was that two of their key players were injured during the 30-over-a-side match at the P Sara ground leaving the team in dire straits, days ahead of their Asia Cup ties. Wicketkeeper Khaled Masood Pilot was taken to the hospital for surgery after being hit by a rising delivery while Bangladesh were fielding under an overcast condition. The dapper right-handed batsman, one

of the heroes in clinching the ICC Trophy, lost two teeth and had two stitches in his badly bruised lips. Athar Ali Khan was the second in an ominous injury list. The tall national all-rounder, who conceded 12 runs in his two prodigal overs, suffered a back injury on a heavy outfield and could not play the rest of the match. Beleaguered Bangladesh team manager Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu later asked for a replacement of Pilot, a dashing batsman, pointing out his unlikely early recovery. In the match, the Lankan President's XI, the second fiddle of the world champions, batted



K MASOOD

Bangabandhu Murder Case 3 more defence lawyers cross-examine plaintiff

By Staff Correspondent
 Principal witness and complainant in the Bangabandhu murder case, Muhiul Islam, was cross-examined by three defence lawyers in the court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, yesterday. The cross-examination continued from 10:40 am to 5 pm when the District Judge, Kazi Golam Rasul, adjourned the proceeding till Monday. Muhiul was asked questions ranging from personal life to his job and about some important civil and military officials of that time. Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman, lawyer for Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farookur Rahman and T M Akbar, lawyer for Lt Col (ret'd) Muhiuddin

Ahmed, completed their cross-examination. The day's proceedings were adjourned when cross-examination by Sharfuddin Mukul, lawyer for former state minister for information Taheruddin Thakur, was in progress. During the cross-examination, Muhiul Islam denied the plea of the defence lawyers that their clients were not at the place of occurrence during the incident and that he was telling what he had been tutored. Muhiul also told the court that he was 16 years old when he passed the SSC examinations in 1972 and that he got the job at the PM Secretariat through interview. See Page 12 Col 7

Suppression of Offences Against Biman Security Bill '97 passed

By Staff Correspondent
 Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the 'Suppression of Offences Against Biman Security Bill, 1997', after a nearly three-hour exercise on disposal of amendments brought by the Opposition lawmakers. Ploled by State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Molluddin Khan Alamgir, the bill was passed by voice vote. A total of four amendments to the bill was also accepted through voice votes, including one which the minister did not initially accept. The amendments were moved by the BNP lawmakers. The state minister immediately See Page 12 Col 3

Bangladesh Bank report upto Mar 31, 1997 Beximco Group owes Tk 22 cr in defaulted bank loans

By Inam Ahmed
 A fresh investigation by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) has found that the Beximco Group owed Tk 21.99 cr in defaulting bank loans till March 31, 1997, contrary to the group's claims, according to sources. The BB has also ascertained that the total outstanding loans taken and guaranteed by the Group, a leading business house of the country, stands at Tk 886.62 crore as on March 31, 1997. The Bank had investigated the conglomerate's accounts in 17 banks to determine its loan status after being asked by the Law Ministry on June 30, 1997 to submit a report by July 2. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had ordered the Law Ministry to ascertain the loan status of Beximco Group and of its co-owner Salman F Rahman. The PMO had taken this un-

usual move after Salman Rahman, on May 22, appealed to the Prime Minister to make an investigation into his financial position, claiming that he is not a defaulter. However, a Daily Star investigation has also revealed that Beximco has given a post-dated cheque to Arab Bangladesh (AB) Bank for Tk 12 crore as payment of installment of its rescheduled loans. The date for repayment of installment of the loan was June 30, 1997. But Beximco gave a cheque dated July 15. The AB Bank has already informed the BB about the fresh defaulting of the repayment by Beximco mentioning the post-dated cheque, according to BB sources. Meanwhile, the BB has found that the figures of defaulting loans of Beximco on

December 31, 1996, as reported by different newspapers including The Daily Star are accurate. It said Beximco had Tk 490.96 cr in outstanding loans against 16 banks, of which Tk 57.36 crore was overdue till December 31, 1996. But this overdue amount stood at Tk 21.99 crore out of a total Tk 585.76 cr outstanding loans against 17 banks till March 31, 1997. In addition, the amount of loans guaranteed by the Beximco Group stood at Tk 304.94 cr as of December 31, 1996, of which Tk five crore was overdue. Figures ending March 31, 1997 show its outstanding loans at Tk 300.86 crore with no overdue amount. The BB has also pointed out that Beximco's own outstanding See Page 12 Col 4

Banking sector to see dramatic improvement this yr: Kibria

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria hopes country's banking sector will experience a dramatic improvement in the current financial year as a result of government's sincere and relentless effort, reports UNB. "We have made every effort in every sector in order to speed up reforms, but actual progress is quite limited. A lot of things have to be done," he said in his concluding remark at a workshop in Dhaka yesterday. The Ministry of Finance and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) jointly organised the final workshop on the bank's support for institutional development of the ministry. The minister said qualitative changes could be attainable in government activities through continuous endeavour. "Nothing happens overnight. The results of the present efforts would be visible after a few years." See Page 12 Col 7

Irregularities by DSE members detected

By Rafiqul Hasan
 An internal audit in the Dhaka Stock Exchange found various irregularities by its members including defaulting on payments, issuing 'bad cheques', keeping clients' money in hand for long and not taking share certificates after purchase agreement during last year's bull run in the stock market, according to sources in the DSE. The DSE audited its members' accounts for six months from July to December last year and detected the irregularities. The audit was conducted after the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) claimed on April 30 this year that it made double payments amounting to more than Tk 1 crore in two instalments but did not get back the money. The ICB had claimed that it made double payments of Tk 68.87,636.43 and Tk 38,20,614.98 in two instalments. The audit revealed that the ICB made an excess payment of

Tk 85,49,823.74 till December 30, last year. The DSE subsequently released Tk 68,87,636 and the balance amount was kept pending for final checking. The audit found that five influential members of the DSE including one former councillor defaulted in paying a total of Tk 81.08 lakh to the DSE, the sources said. The defaulters are Mujibur Rahman, Managing Director of Prudential Securities Limited (DSE membership No 73) — Tk 11.69 lakh; Abdul Latif Mian, owner of Latif Mian and Co (membership No 80) — Tk 40.80 lakh; Rakibur Rahman, owner of Rakibur Rahman and Co (membership No 142) — Tk 4.2 lakh; Sirajul Islam Mollah, Chairman of Trusty Associates Co Ltd (membership No 162) — Tk 3.40 lakh; and Tarique Alam Khan, owner of T A Khan and Co (membership No 174) — Tk 20.74 lakh. Prudential securities has See Page 12 Col 7

Death of Biman crew: CID to interrogate 15 SB personnel

By Staff Correspondent
 The CID is going to interrogate more than 15 Special Branch (SB) personnel as part of its investigation into the death of Biman crew Nuruzaaman Shaif in police custody in the city on June 16. Sources in the CID said the investigation team has already completed formalities for questioning the SB personnel who were on duty at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Nuruzaaman was arrested by security personnel on June 13 on charges of illegal trespassing into the PMO. The CID, since June 20, in-

Bullet-hit Jubo League leader dies

From Our Correspondent
 JHENIDAH, July 9: Police fired tear gas shells to disperse a group of people who attacked the office of the TNO at Shaillakupa today protesting the death of a Jubo League leader. Kabir, 35, was shot and struck with a machete by some unidentified people in Shaillakupa town last night. He was See Page 12 Col 2

Bikash arrested in N'ganj

Police yesterday arrested 'notorious terrorist' Bikash for whom the government had announced a Tk 25,000 reward, reports UNB. Acting on a tip-off, Detective Branch of police raided a house in Narayanganj town yesterday afternoon and nabbed Bikash. He was later brought to DB office.

JS standing committees: AL softens stand

By Nurul Kabir
 The ruling Awami League and the opposition BNP have made substantial progress in resolving the long-standing crisis arising out of their conflicting stands over the proposed composition of parliamentary standing committees on various ministries, sources in the contending camps said yesterday. Besides MPs from both the parties are mounting pressure on their respective leadership to expedite the process of negotiation and constitute the parliamentary bodies as soon as possible, insiders of the parties said. The Awami League that had openly opposed the idea of proportionate distribution of the membership of 35 standing committees has now substantially softened its position. At a meeting with BNP leader Khandaker Dewar Hossain on Tuesday night, Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim assured that the ruling party

was ready to accept three BNP members in every 10-member standing bodies. Nasim, who has been assigned by the Prime Minister to negotiate with the BNP on the issue, also assured Khandaker Dewar that the Treasury bench was ready to give chairmanship of three to four standing bodies to the BNP. It was for the first time in the last nine months of bitter war of words between the contending parties that AL specifically communicated to the BNP the Treasury bench stand on the composition of the parliamentary bodies. All the AL letters written to the BNP in the past only requested the latter to send the list of its lawmakers and preferred to keep mum on the BNP letters requesting the AL to specifically mention the figure. See Page 12 Col 4



Tatiana Susskind, 25, being led to a court session yesterday in Jerusalem. The court decided to remand her in custody until the end of her trial. Susskind sparked a wave of indignation in the Muslim world for distributing a blasphemous leaflet last month in the West Bank town of Hebron. —AFP/UNB photo

DESCO formed, 3 top officials appointed

By Sharier Khan
 A holding company owned by the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) — Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO) — has been set up to pave the way for gradual privatisation of the city's power supply and billing and thereby reduce system loss. According to official sources the first task of DESCO will be gradually taking charge of Mirpur zone from DESA and improving the services in that zone. Three top officials of DESCO were appointed on July 3. They will now outline the plan to build up the DESCO components, appoint staff and workers and run the Mirpur zone on a test basis. Abu Saleh Mohammad Firoz, an engineer and an MBA who had earlier worked with a

multinational company, took charge as Managing Director of DESCO on Sunday. Chartered accountant Abdus Salam and former DESA Director (Planning) Engineer A B Saha joined as Director (Finance) and Director (Technical) the same day. "DESCO is now their baby," See Page 12 Col 6

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
 ঢাকা

- এদেশে আয়কর পরিশোধ করুন এবং
- দেশের অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে আপনার অবদান রাখুন।

করদাতাগণ জানেন কি?

কোম্পানী ব্যতীত অন্য সকল সম্মানিত করদাতাদের সুবিধার্থে ১৯৯৭-৯৮ কর বৎসর হতে বিদ্যমান স্বনির্ধারণী পদ্ধতিতে আওতা আর্থনিক, যোগাযোগী ও আকর্ষণীয় করে তোলা হয়েছে। এ পদ্ধতির বৈশিষ্ট্যগুলো নিম্নরূপঃ

- নতুন করদাতাদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রারম্ভিক পুঁজি বর্তমান ২ (দুই) লক্ষ টাকা পরিবর্তে ২৫ (পঁচিশ) লক্ষ টাকা পর্যন্ত দেখানো যাবে তবে এর অন্তর্গত এক চতুর্থাংশ আয় হিসাবে দেখাতে হবে। এরূপ প্রারম্ভিক পুঁজি পরবর্তী পাঁচ বছরের মধ্যে হস্তান্তর করা যাবে না।
- সকল ক্ষেত্রে সম্পদ বিবরণী দাখিলের বাধ্যবাধকতা শিথিল করা হয়েছে। শুধুমাত্র দুই থেকে পাঁচ লক্ষ টাকা পর্যন্ত আয়ের ক্ষেত্রে প্রতি তিন বছরে একবার এবং পাঁচ লক্ষ টাকার উপরে আয়ের ক্ষেত্রে প্রতি বছরই বিচারের সাথে সম্পদ বিবরণী দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ন্যূনতম করের পরিমাণ ১২০০/- টাকা হ্রাস করে ১০০০/- টাকা করা হয়েছে।
- কোম্পানীর পরিচালকদের জন্য শেয়ার হোল্ডিং-এর বিদ্যমান শর্ত শিথিল করে তা ৫% হতে ১০% এ উন্নীত করা হয়েছে। অর্থাৎ কোন পরিচালককে শেয়ার হোল্ডিং কোম্পানীর পরিশোধিত মূলধনের দশ শতাংশের অধিক না হলে তিনিও স্বনির্ধারণী পদ্ধতিতে বিচার দাখিল করতে পারবেন।
- পূর্ববর্তী বছরের নিরূপিত আয় ভিত্তি (basis) হিসাবে বিবেচনা করার সময় ঐ বৎসরের মূলধনী মুনাফা আয় (যদি থাকে) বিবেচিত হবে না।
- পিটিসি কোম্পানী ব্যতীকে যে কোন করদাতা যে কোন খাত থেকে প্রাপ্ত আয়ের ক্ষেত্রে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে স্বনির্ধারণী পদ্ধতিতে বিচার দাখিল করতে পারেন। তবে পূর্ববর্তী বছরের নিরূপিত আয়ের কম আয় দেখানো যাবে না।
- বিদেশে বসবাসকৃত বাংলাদেশী যাদেরকে অনিবার্য হিসাবে অভিহিত করা হয় তারাও তাদের বাংলাদেশে অর্জিত আয়ের ক্ষেত্রে নিবাসীদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য হারে কর প্রদান করে স্বনির্ধারণী পদ্ধতিতে সুযোগ গ্রহণ করতে পারেন।
- নিজেই আয় নিজে নিরূপণ করুন এবং সহজ ও আকর্ষণীয় স্বনির্ধারণী পদ্ধতিতে সুযোগ গ্রহণ করুন।

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue Dhaka

- এদেশে আয়কর পরিশোধ করুন এবং
- দেশের অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে আপনার অবদান রাখুন

Regarding Submission of Income Tax Return by House & Car Owners

In view of the prospect of tax base extension & internal resource mobilisation, some important measures have been incorporated in the Income Tax Act during 1997-98 tax year. From 1997-98 tax year, any one owning pucca house above single storey measuring above 1600 (Sixteen hundred) square feet or motor car — any of the two or both in Dhaka metropolitan city area and other divisional & district headquarters municipal area, shall have to submit Income Tax Return indiscriminate of his/her income in the respective income year. It may be noted here that such notion as payment of income tax is mandatory for whoever owning a house or car is not correct. The incumbent should pay tax at the applicable rate only when his/her income exceeds the taxable limit i.e. Tk 60,000/- annually. The Government thus expects that the individuals with taxable income should voluntarily submit return & clear the applicable revenue thereby incorporating their contributions in the development activities of the government.

UPP-15777-6/7 G-1799 National Board of Revenue

Commuters increase, sales double



Compartment of a Dhaka-Narayanganj passenger train, now being run by a private company. The photograph was taken from Kamalapur station yesterday. — Star photo

Private train service

By Naimul Haq
 The number of people travelling by train between the capital and Narayanganj has increased substantially since a private company took over the service on Monday, the company chief claimed. Mozammel Hossain Sagar, chairman of HA International Ltd., owner of the company which is running the service said, "tickets worth Tk 15,000 almost double the amount of normal sales, were sold on the first day of the privately run service". "The service is much better now," said Ratish Kumar Barua, an executive working for a private firm in the capital. "I noticed a lot of changes in the See Page 12 Col 1