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BNP leader Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury addressing party workers in front of its central office in the city yesterday before bringing out a procession to mark the party's 19th founding anniversary. — Star photo

Najma now struggles on a new Jamuna char

From Shehab Ahmed

CHANDANI, Bhupur, Sept. 3: Najma Khaton, in her late teens, clutched her son watching the Jamuna flowing down this new char, eroding away chunks of it.

Najma is one of the many whose houses had been swallowed by the mighty river when engineers tried to tame part of it to protect Sirajganj town. But the swirling currents simply tore through Rehail Chandani char where Najma had her straw hut and dreams of a teenaged housewife.

She stood helplessly on the other bank of the river, gazing at the distant Sirajganj town hidden under a veil of haze and clouds. Her husband and other settlers on this new char and gathered nearby as we, some journalists from the capital, visited it to have a look at the settlements and know their fate.

Some 40 families had crossed the river and built houses with whatever they could salvage from the clutches of the river. But rebuilding their lives posed various problems, part of which is to be mitigated by a German-funded NGO, Jamuna Char Integrated Development Project (JCIDP).

The German government last month decided to supplement the efforts of the JCIDP, providing 25,000 marks. Under the programme, tubewells and sanitary latrines are coming to this new settlement in the next two weeks.

Bangabandhu Murder Case

From Page 1

the Unit and was holding the charge during the incident. There were four squadrons in the Unit.

"In the chain of command above the four squadrons of the Bengal Lancer Unit was the Army Headquarters and was headed by Maj Gen Shahiullah.

"The four squadrons of Bengal Lancer had assembled for a combined exercise in the night of August 14, 1975. From the kote of my squadron headquarters, I collected a G-3 rifle and ammunition under instructions from my superior officer. During that time Lancer Dafadar Nurul Huq was in charge of the kote, located almost 200 yards from our barracks.

"The Army Headquarters were responsible for directing the exercise programme. The squadron commanders had authority of making some amendments without changing the main programme.

"Tanks were brought for the exercise after taking permission from the Army Headquarters. "I do not know what kind of arms others had taken from the kote which had a variety of arms including Chinese rifle and sten gun, other than G-3 rifles.

"The police had called me twice before making me a witness in the case. I had recorded my statement at the CID office first. Later, they took me before a magistrate to record my statement. ASP Kahar Akhand had told me to tell before the magistrate what I knew regarding the incident.

"I do not remember whether I was taken before the magistrate after filing of the charge sheet in connection with the case," he said.

On Tuesday, defence lawyers of the accused in custody pleaded that the testimony of Bashir was not admissible because he was an accomplice and that his evidence was liable to be expunged.

In reply, prosecution side

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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The Daily Star

Bill on extension of retirement age rejected

The Jatiya Sangsad disallowed adoption of the Public Servants (retirement) (amendment) Bill, 1997, placed by Jatiya Party MP Dr M. Rustam Ali Farazee on the Private Members' Day yesterday, reports BSS.

The bill aimed at further amendments to the Public Servants (retirement) Act, 1974, was opposed by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru. He said if the bill was passed, it would create discontent among fresh graduate and post graduate job seekers.

Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, who is in charge of the Ministry of Establishment in the House, also differed with the bill, saying that the present retirement age should not be extended up to 60 years in view of the present unemployment situation in the country.

The bill was, however, rejected by voice votes when Dr Farazee pressed for its adoption in the House.

The main opposition BNP, which has been abstaining from attending the session, did not join the proceedings yesterday.

Besides the question-answer hour, the House adopted three private members' resolutions placed by Treasury bench members Zainab Nandi Khasru, Alhaj Mokbul Hossain and Professor Panna Kaiser.

Yesterday, the Sangsad session resumed at 4:25 pm with Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid in the chair and continued till 9 pm. The session will begin at 3:30 pm today.

Young man stabbed to death in city
By Staff Correspondent

Unidentified gang stabbed a young man to death in the city yesterday afternoon.

Police said Prantosh, 27, sustained injuries as he was stabbed indiscriminately at Ramakanta Nandi Lane, known as Ghee Patti under Kotwali thana at about 2 pm.

Prantosh was immediately rushed to the Mitford Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

The motive behind the killing could not be known till last night. It was alleged that the incident was sequel to a conflict between two local groups.

New Pay Scale to be implemented by Nov: Kibria
The new National Pay Scale for the government officials and employees will be implemented by November at the latest, Finance Minister S A M S Kibria said yesterday.

"However, how much (of the salary) will be increased is yet to be decided," Kibria told UNB in an interview. "I am still awaiting the report of the Secretaries' committee."

He said the new pay scale would be given retrospective effect from July 1.

The finance minister made it clear that he would not go beyond the budgetary allocation for implementation of the Pay Commission report, submitted to the government in June last.

Discussion on Abul Mansur
From Page 1

and spirit, and his thoughts unfolded the spirit and thoughts of the masses of Bengal, especially the Muslims," he said.

The President read out a brief life sketch of Abul Mansur Ahmed, who was born in 1898 and died in 1979, and said, "The main objective of observing birth or death anniversaries of great personalities is to take lessons from their belief, experience, failure and success."

"Abul Mansur Ahmed fought for a democratic social system throughout his life," he said.

The President quoted Abul Mansur as saying in a speech in the Gana Parishad in 1956, "Pakistan is a nation of two states...where the minority rules the majority". Pakistani newspapers termed the statement anti-state and demand his trial, he said.

Shahabuddin suggested that all literary works of Abul Mansur be compiled and published.

Prof Rafiqul Islam later confirmed that Bangla Academy was now doing the compilation and hoped that it would be completed before the 100th birth anniversary of Abul Mansur next year.

The discussion was presided over by Prof Abu Rushd. Others

participating in the discussion included Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Rafiqul Islam and Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury while Prof Anisuzzaman conducted the programme. Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam read out the key-note paper titled 'The Literary Works of Abul Mansur Ahmed' written by Prof Rajib Humayun.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui praised the literary works of Abul Mansur and said, "These works rank among the best 30 in the country."

Prof Abu Rushd suggested that an academic research on Abul Mansur Ahmed and his works be taken up by the Dhaka University.

Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury said Abul Mansur Ahmed wanted to understand the world and change it for the betterment. In every domain of his multifarious career, be it journalism, literature or politics, he demonstrated a scientific outlook," he said.

Prof Chowdhury said Abul Mansur Ahmed had drafted the historic 21-point manifesto of the then Jukta Front in the 1954 election. "The 21-point was drafted in line with the spirit of February 21 Language Movement," he said.

Economy on sound & healthy track
From Page 1

liquidity crisis and said the banks had Tk 21,076.01 crore excess liquidity on August 21 and Tk 24,266.83 crore on August 14 as against the required liquidity of only Tk 14,000 crore.

Asked about the bank loan situation, Kibria said the banking system has sanctioned industrial credit amounting to Tk 79,323.35 crore and disbursed Tk 78,181.56 crore in the last 1996-97 fiscal year.

On the other hand, he said, total industrial loan sanctioned and disbursed in fiscal 1995-96 was Tk 46,625.5 crore and Tk 49,061.13 crore respectively.

A whispering campaign was launched by the opposition and supported by some business quarters that the banks have not given any loan and the economy was in stagnant position because of the refusal of loans by the banks.

The working capital disbursed during the last year was Tk 66,559.02 crore, which was about double the amount for the previous year, Kibria said.

About term loans, the minister said the growth in term loan is also satisfactory compared to 1995-96 and the initial two years of the BNP regime.

Kibria said an amount of Tk 39,589.80 crore default loan — Tk 27,988.86 crore in cash and Tk 11,600.94 crore through rescheduling — has been recovered upto July this year.

Regarding revenue collection, he said the collection of

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SAFF tourney kicks off today
Al-Amin from Nepal

KATHMANDU, Sept 3: Hosts Nepal will take on Pakistan in the opening match as the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship begins here tomorrow afternoon. The match will kick off at 3:15 pm (BST).

Six nations — Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal, split into two groups, are participating in the tourney. Top two teams from each group will qualify for the semifinals.

Bangladesh, who have been placed in Group B along with India and Maldives, will begin their robin league campaign against Maldives tomorrow before meeting powerful side India next on Sunday. Both matches will be aired on Bangladesh Betar as well as the semifinals and final billed for September 10, 11 and 13 respectively.

Two commentators — Abdul Hamid and Kheda Baksh Mridha have arrived here Wednesday.

Bangladesh Television may telecast the recorded highlights of Bangladesh's games at a convenient time.

HC asks BB to delete name of Beximco from defaulters list
By Staff Correspondent

The High Court yesterday asked the Bangladesh Bank to publish a corrected list of loan defaulters deleting the name of Beximco and its Chairman A S F Rahman from the list showing that the company did not repay the BCCI an alleged loan of Tk 15 crore and odds.

A press release issued by Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq, counsel for the Beximco yesterday said the Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hossain and Justice Mohammad Hossain held that they were not defaulters with the BCCI as regards the alleged loan shown by the Bangladesh Bank and published in newspapers on May 20/21.

Replying to Mir Shaukat Ali Daru (AL), Anwar Hossain said the plan has been taken up to construct the Rupsha bridge with road-cum-rail provision.

BCL-Shibir
From Page 1

Hospital. Meanwhile, immediately after the incident some agitating students set ablaze a cottage of students outside the campus, police said.

UNB adds: BCL blamed Shibirites for attacking their peaceful gathering in front of the gate, but Shibir leaders said they countered the BCL activists who were planning to capture Shahjalal Hall of the University.

Firefighters brought the blaze under control at about 6 pm, but, meantime, the kutchra house was burnt to ashes.

A huge contingent of police was deployed in and around the campus.

Situation still reportedly remained volatile. Hathazari thana, however, said situation was under control.

In a backlash to the afternoon incident, a group of youths attacked a university-bound train at Sholohahar station at about 7:30 pm leaving 35 students injured. Their identity could not be known.

Panchlaish thana police said they rescued six injured students from the spot and sent them to hospital.

Didarul Alam Chowdhury, assistant proctor of CU, told UNB that he heard gunshots for about 25 minutes on the campus that left one dead.

Death of Diana
Hasina signs condolence book

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited the British High Commission in the city yesterday to express her deep shock at the tragic death of Princess Diana, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister signed the condolence book at the High Commission, expressing profound shock at the untimely demise of Diana, the Princess of Wales.

British High Commissioner David Walker presented the Prime Minister with a portrait of late Princess Diana.

Emeka to represent C'wealth states in Diana's funeral
Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku will represent the Commonwealth countries, including Bangladesh, in the funeral of Princess Diana on Saturday, reports UNB.

The dean of the diplomatic corps in London and heads of the diplomatic missions of the commonwealth countries will be invited to attend the funeral.

The High Commissioners of the C'wealth countries of which the Queen is the head of state and individuals who had personal association with the late princess would also be invited.

Spl prayer offered at British HC
A special prayer was offered at the British High Commission in Dhaka seeking divine blessing for the departed soul of Princess Diana, who died in a car crash in Paris early Sunday.

British High Commissioner in Dhaka David Walker, US Ambassador in Dhaka John C. Holzman, staff members of the British High Commission and the British Council, British organisations and the people of British community living here attended the prayer.

Revenue collection may face setback: Kibria
Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday feared the revenue collection this fiscal year may face a setback due to a huge number of duty-related litigations piled in the High Court, reports UNB.

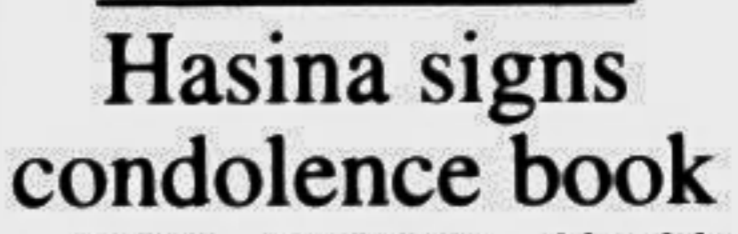
Making a statement in parliament, he said revenue amounting to Tk 350 crore of the government has remained unpaid or suspended due to ad-interim orders by the court on writ petitions against nearly 4,000 cases.

"If the current situation continues, the amount of unpaid or suspended revenue would exceed Tk 1,000 crore during this fiscal year," the minister said, apprehending a shortfall again in revenue collection.

Kibria said the courts in Pakistan and India generally reject the revenue related writs. In Bangladesh, the number of duty-related litigations rose to 4,000 during last two years from a few hundred in 1980s.

Only in July last, over 425 writ petitions were filed, he said adding that the number would exceed 10,000 at the end of the

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Britain to hold inquest
From Page 1

Inquests are routine for all British citizens who die suddenly overseas and whose bodies are brought back. Brown said.

Diana died Sunday in a high-speed car accident in Paris. Her new beau Dodi Fayed and the car's driver also were killed.

The inquest, whose purpose is to make a formal finding of the cause of death, will examine evidence compiled by French investigators including results of the autopsy on the Princess's body, he said.

It will be the first inquest in the death of a member of the royal family in 25 years, the BBC reported. The previous such inquest was when Prince William of Gloucester, a cousin of Queen Elizabeth II, died in an air-race crash.

Another report adds: New details on the photographs alleged role in the crash that killed Princess Diana emerged Wednesday, with a police report saying paparazzi pushed back the first officer on the scene as he tried to reach the victims.

Until more police arrived to help him, all the officer was able to glimpse of Diana was "a blonde head," the daily Le Figaro reported, quoting from the first reports scribbled by investigators 20 minutes after the crash. It did not name the photographers involved in the scene.

Six photographers and a motorcycle driver were named Tuesday as official suspects in the case. A lawyer for one of the men denounced the move as "theater justice."

ADB loan
From Page 1

Replying to a supplementary from Abdul Latif Mirza (AL), he said the people who were evicted from the Jamuna project area were properly rehabilitated with employment.

In reply to another question, the Communications Minister said the government has a plan to develop the Joydevpur-Tangail part of Dhaka-Tangail highway during the current fiscal year under the Jamuna bridge approach road project.

The 66.50-km Joydevpur-Tangail road will be developed at a cost of Tk 300 crore under the financial assistance of OECF of Japan.

Replying to Mir Shaukat Ali Daru (AL), Anwar Hossain said the plan has been taken up to construct the Rupsha bridge with road-cum-rail provision.

US Open
From Page 1

meet the winner of Hingis vs Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in the upperhalf semifinal.

Earlier in the morning Gigi Fernandez-Natasha Zaverava, the best women's doubles pair, beat Faisal-Tauziat pair 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 to reach the semifinals. They will play the winners of Arendt-Bollegraf vs Dragomir-Majoli ties which started at the Louis Armstrong Stadium.

Economy on sound & healthy track
From Page 1

Tk 11,498.80 crore in August this year was higher than the target of Tk 11,063.33 crore. "So, there is no reason for such kind of scary talk."

He said there had been a marginal shortfall in revenue collection last year due to complications arising out of some litigations by importers.

Asked about the foreign investment situation, the finance minister said foreign investors proposed to invest 1054 million US dollars in fiscal 1996-97 while 17 projects involving 53 million dollars were set up in the EPZs.

In the power sector, he said, agreements have already been signed to invest 400 million dollars while three more contracts are going to be signed shortly for an investment of 700 million dollars.

In the gas sector, an amount of 100 million dollars has already been invested and an additional 270 million dollars will be invested within a year or two, Kibria said, adding investment in the 12 oil and gas exploration blocks would be at least 600 million dollars.

He said the representative of Unocal, a US oil giant, met him yesterday and informed that the company would invest 300 million dollars, immediately and nearly one billion dollars in coming days.

In the telecommunication sector, he said, a total of 175 million dollars has already been invested and another 500

million dollars is expected to be invested within next three years.

The overall picture of foreign investment is certainly bright and the prophets of doom, who are lamenting the situation, are going to be proved wrong," Kibria said.

About the capital market, he said the share market continued to cause concern, but informed that the government has taken a number of steps, including reorganisation of the Securities and Exchange Commission and revision of the laws and procedures, to revitalise the market.

There is no reason why the market should not respond to the steps, the minister said. He informed about the 80 million ADB-funded loan for the capital market and approval of 18 merchant banks which are expected to start their operation soon.

The finance minister expressed satisfaction over the macro-economic situation and said the foreign exchange reserve now stood at 1713.07 million dollars.

Besides, the commercial banks are holding about 300 million dollars. Therefore, the total amount available for meeting the international obligation is about two billion dollars, he said.

"Of course, I'm not fully satisfied with the reserve level and we are actively trying to increase the reserve to a level which will give a more comfortable margin," Kibria said.

Revenue collection may face setback: Kibria

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Kibria said the courts in Pakistan and India generally reject the revenue related writs. In Bangladesh, the number of duty-related litigations rose to 4,000 during last two years from a few hundred in 1980s.

Only in July last, over 425 writ petitions were filed, he said adding that the number would exceed 10,000 at the end of the

fiscal year if the current trend continues, creating an adverse effect in revenue collection.

He said most of the litigations are related to import of re-conditioned cars and in most cases, the court passed ad-interim orders without hearing the Attorney General or the revenue officials.

Recently, such kind of litigations is also being filed in case of value added tax (VAT) on telephone service, the finance minister said, informing that the number of cases rose to 200. "In general, such ad-interim orders will create serious adverse effect."

Saying that recently the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court partially accepted the arguments of the revenue authority, Kibria welcomed the development.

He said he had discussed the issue with the Attorney General and requested him to create a special team to contest the cases against the National Board of Revenue and make appeal in the Supreme Court against the ad-interim orders.

Foreign banks submit report on industrial financing
Foreign banks operating in the country have submitted to Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria a report containing proposals for industrial financing, reports UNB.

A five-member delegation of the foreign banks called on the minister at his Secretariat office yesterday and submitted the report.

The banks are — ANZ, Grindlays Bank, Banque Indosuez, Citibank, Standard Chartered Bank and the American Express Bank.

Last month, the finance minister held a meeting with the representatives of the foreign banks and requested them to extend term loan for industrial development of the country.

The banks responded positively and formed a committee to make proposals for industrial financing.

The Finance Ministry and the Bangladesh Bank will study the report and steps would be taken for a significant raise in the industrial lending by foreign banks.

Prof Kayes
From Page 1

leged corruption. Finally, they enforced an indefinite strike on the campus from July, creating a deadlock situation. The teachers also demanded his removal.

Prof Kayes Uddin arrived at Kusthiya at 11 am today and stayed for sometime at the circuit house and then proceeded towards the campus at noon.

Teachers and students welcomed him on the campus. He met the teachers and students and placed wreaths at the Shahid Minar and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls.

Teachers and employees of the university did not get their salary last two months due to the strike which also made the academic life of 6000 students uncertain.

BCL and Shibir activists brought out victory processions on the campus and welcomed the new Vice-Chancellor.

The teachers and employees are expected to get their salary tomorrow.

PM leaves
From Page 1

also sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Jakarta on expansion of