



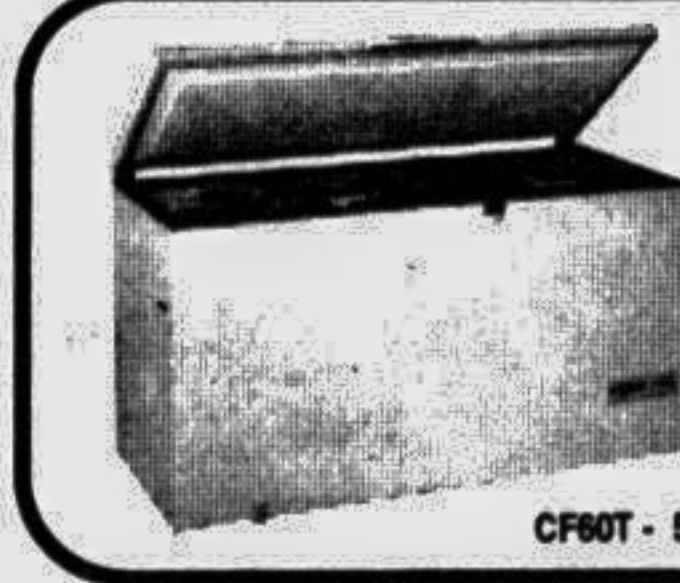
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Ctg AL protests 'BNP terrorism'

CHITTAGONG, Jun 10: The district and city units of the Awami League jointly held a rally and brought out procession in the city today to protest the 'BNP terrorism', reports UNB.

City Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury addressed the rally in front of Awami League Office. He criticised BNP for its 'undemocratic behaviour'.

He said whenever BNP chief Begum Zia visited Chittagong, she let loose anarchy and terrorism creating panic among the city dwellers.

Presided over by Abul Kalam Sawdagar, the rally was addressed, among others, by Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu and MA Salam.

Rape case

2 staff of CMM's court released on bail

By Court Correspondent

Two staff of the CMM's court who were arrested from the court premises on May 16 on charge of attempting to violate a girl were released on bail yesterday.

The 8th Additional Sessions and Judge Court, Dhaka, passed the order for bail of a bodyguard of the CMM, Zahurul Islam, 30, and a night guard Taslim, 32.

Zahurul and Taslim were caught by police and some local people when they allegedly attempted to violate a teenaged girl inside a room of the court building.

Sylhet flood

From Page 1

In Sylhet sadar thana fresh areas including the low-lying areas of the town have been inundated with the river Surma overflowing since yesterday.

The local authorities have opened 11 shelters at different educational institutions in the town today and yesterday.

The district flood control room informed that five metric tonnes of rice and Tk 5,000 in cash has been sanctioned for the affected people of the town.

WC opening

From Page 1

aerial effect which was roundly applauded by the crowd.

The ceremony also included an array of stiltwalkers, trampolinists, jumping bugs and dancers dressed in dazzling colours. It all worked like clockwork after hundreds of hours of rehearsal.

At the close 600 figures were on the pitch, which had been protected from damage by the stiffs having huge rubber-pads at their base.

A total of 3,000 balloons were released into the blue sky above the showpiece stadium after permission was obtained from the French civil aviation authorities at nearby Charles de Gaulle Airport.

As the players of world champions Brazil and Scotland arrived for the preliminaries before the kickoff, a huge mosaic was created by fans raising coloured cards on their seats which spelt out the message XVI Coupe de Monde.

After outgoing FIFA president Joao Havelange made a short speech and French president Jacques Chirac declared the World Cup open, a French schoolgirl read out a 'good conduct' charter written by pupils at a secondary school at Choisy-le-Roi, near Paris, for the 704 players in the tournament.

It contained the words: "Never behave violently, always keep your self-control, give everything you've got, then accept defeat gracefully and celebrate your victories like true sportsmen."



The BNP-led long march that halted for several hours in Chittagong started for Khagrachhari from Chittagong Circuit House at about 10 am yesterday. — Star photo

JS session

From Page 1

the chair. The sitting was a brief one.

The third biggest party in the parliament, Jatiya Party, also attended the sitting.

Welcoming the members, the Speaker announced that from June 14 he would allocate 30 minutes, to be distributed equally between the Treasury and the Opposition benches, for unscheduled discussion in the House on every working day.

The first 15 minutes would be allocated for the opposition members. The discussions would take place before the closure of every sitting.

The Speaker also nominated a five-member panel of Chairmen who will preside over the session in his absence and in the absence of the Deputy Speaker. They are Col. (Retd) Shahqat Ali (AL), Khandakar Asaduzzaman (AL), Dr. Abdul Moin Khan (BNP), NK Alam Choudhury (JP) and Dilara Haroon (AL).

The House unanimously adopted a resolution condoling the deaths of 10 noted politicians and MPs, who died in the past few months and observed one-minute silence.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid, who chaired the sitting later, adjourned the House at 12.24 pm. The House resumes at 3 pm today.

PM: Long march

From Page 1

pair of some others, the situation would greatly improve from today (Thursday). He said that against a daily demand of 2390 MW of power in the country, generation capacity would be enhanced to 2100 MW daily by the end of this month.

He briefed the meeting about special arrangements made in consideration of World Cup soccer.

Brazil win

From Page 1

score. Leighton made two superb saves, one to push away a drive by Roberto Carlos and the other to prevent Ronaldo from scoring a spectacular individual goal.

But Brazil then seemed to relax and allowed Scotland to come back into the match.

The high spot for Brazil was the performance of striker Ronaldo, widely regarded as the world's top player, who produced some scintillating touches as his team tried desperately for a winner in the second half.

But Scotland appeared capable of holding Brazil at bay until Boyd's unfortunate goal.

HC declares rule against detention of Chetia, 2 others 'infructuous'

The High Court yesterday declared "infructuous" a rule against the detention of ULFA leader Anup Chetia and his two accomplices as the detention order had already been withdrawn, reports UNB.

However, the ULFA leaders are now in custody in connection with three criminal cases and cannot be released unless they are granted bail in those cases.

The rule issued earlier against the detention order was scheduled to be heard yesterday by a division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Md Mozammel and Justice ABM Khairul Hoque.

Acting Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan told the court that since the government had withdrawn the detention order against Anup Chetia and his two accomplices, there is no need for hearing the rule.

BCL-JCD gunfight leaves 20 hurt at Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 10: At least 20 people were injured in an armed clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in Sylhet town last night.

Of them, six BCL activists with bullet wounds were admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital while eight JCD activists were admitted to private clinic to avoid arrest.

According to witnesses, the clash took place at about 8:40 pm at Baluchar area when the rivals attacked the JCD activists who were returning after holding a protest meeting at its regional office.

The meeting was arranged to protest the bombing incident at the JCD office Sunday.

Both the groups used firearms during the clash, police said. A case has been registered but none was arrested.

Khaleda: Khagrachhari

From Page 1

crisis, unabated corruption, deteriorating law and order and government failure to meet the demand for gas, power and water.

The Leader of the Opposition arrived here shortly after 3 in the afternoon travelling about 400 km-long way from the capital leading the long march organised to protest the December 2 CHT accord and the subsequent laws passed in parliament last month.

She also called for observing 'protest day' on June 22 through demonstration, rallies and processions to protest the "failure of the autocratic inefficient government in every sector."

Begum Zia said the long march was part of the movement and thanked the people for making it a 'total success'.

The movement, she said, did not end with this long march and called upon the people to get united to force the autocratic government to quit.

Begum Zia criticised the government for obstructing the long march and said even police had restricted entry of the marchers to the Khagrachhari town.

She alleged that besides obstructing the march in Dhaka, the Bengali speaking people here were not allowed to join the meeting in the name of checking the ration card.

Begum Zia, who entered the hill town with a motorcade at about 3-15 pm, left for the capital shortly before 5 in the afternoon.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shaful Alam Pradhan, Nakkhaira Lal Deve Barmon, Shahjuddin, Hema Pru, Lusa Mong and Mama Ching. Local BNP leader Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan presided.



Brazilian forward Ronaldo (L) and Rivaldo (R) cheer their teammate Cesar Sampaio (C) who opened the score against Scotland yesterday. — AFP photo

Bangabandhu Murder case

Two field artillery, one lancer regiments involved: PW-61

Risaldar (ret'd) Moslemuddin Khan, an absconding accused in the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case, used five names to conceal his real identity from the public, reports UNB.

The investigation officer in the case told the District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday that Moslemuddin conveniently identified himself as Moslehuddin, Hiran Khan and Rafiqul Islam.

During the cross-examination by state defence counsel, investigation officer Abdul Karar Akand, the 61st prosecution witness in the case, said he came to know the different names of the accused by interrogating a number of people.

Major Abdul Aziz Pasha accompanied by Moslehuddin and some others killed Begum Mujib and the family members in the bedroom of Bangabandhu," he said quoting prosecution witness Abdul Quddus Sikder.

The ASP of Criminal Investigation Department said his investigation revealed that First and Second Field Artillery and 1st Bengal Lancer

regiments were involved in the killing of the father of the nation Sheikh Mujib and his family members.

Replying to a query, Akand told the court that he was only investigation officer in the case and it took for him 108 days to complete the investigation.

He was cross-examined by defence counsel for absconding accused Major (ret'd) Rashed Chowdhury, Major (ret'd) AKM Mohiuddin and Risaldar (ret'd) Moslemuddin.

As soon as the court resumed hearing in the morning, Sharfuddin Mukul, counsel for Taheruddin Thakur, drew attention of the judge that the accused in prison are being given step-motherly treatment.

They are not allowed to take any food, fruits and cosmetics from their relatives," he said. "It's a violation of the jail code".

Judge Kazi Golam Rasul wanted to know the opinion from the prosecution.

Chief prosecutor Sirajul Haq said they will inform the jail authorities of the court's decision in this regard.

Jailer Mosharaf Hossain, who was summoned to the

Last chance for tough decisions

From Page 1

ernment's advantage as the business community has kept complaining about a credit crunch. Nor has it helped to contain inflation, which is basically a cost-pushed phenomenon.

Government figures, however, tell a different story. There was no dearth of working capital, according to the statistics. But industrial finance failed to live up to expectations, which is the result of the government's cautious approach.

The Bangladesh Bank says industrial loan approval in the first six months of current fiscal exceeded (by 34.7%) that in the corresponding figure last year. But disbursements were low (by 25.9%), which analysts interpreted as entrepreneurs' failure to use available resources.

Sufferings of the manufacturing sector have been compounded by a moribund stock market that has financed only a few new ventures in the last two years. But government statistics showed manufacturing grew satisfactorily.

Worst of all, the state borrowed too much from the public, tempting them with lucrative savings instruments. This took away a lot of resources from the banking system.

Ironically however, the budget deficit figures this year will give a better look, thanks to a low ADP spending and slight cut in current expenditure (by Tk 44 crore). The revenue expenditure has been revised from Tk original 14544, to 14500.

This the better figures have come more by default.

The most crucial task for the finance minister this year will be to mobilise the adequate resources, to the extent that he feels comfortable with.

The Tk 29,531 crore budget he is presenting today envisages a revenue income of Tk 20,776 crore in the next fiscal, a growth projection that matches this year's expectations.

Much will depend on the required tax reforms if the finance minister really wants to see his scheme through.

This fiscal, he has fought unsuccessfully to raise enough revenue, falling short by above six per cent against a target of Tk 19,624 crore. The target was a 14.5 per cent revenue growth in a Tk 27,786 crore budget.

Sources say the 1998-99 budget sees a revenue expenditure of Tk 15,931 crore (leaving a surplus of Tk 4,845 crore) and development funds of Tk 13,600 crore (with domestic financing Tk 6218 crore or 46 per cent and foreign financing Tk 7,382 crore or 54 per cent which is

10.5 per cent higher than that of the revised 1997-98 budget).

The outgoing fiscal has seen a development expenditure shortfall of Tk 600 crore against the planned size of Tk 12,200 crore because of lower-than-expected domestic (Tk 500 crore shortfall) and foreign financing (Tk 100 crore shortfall). Contribution from domestic sources has therefore come down from an estimated 47 per cent to 45.2 per cent.

The sources say a Tk 120 crore subsidy is expected for agriculture and another Tk 120 crore for jute and jute goods.

Revenue generation aside, a rising inflationary pressure and poor balance of payment situation are the other key concerns for the finance minister. These are some of the issues that will strain the fiscal balance.

The foreign exchange reserves have stagnated at around US\$ 1.8 billion after declining from a benchmark of US\$ 2.01 billion in July 1996. The situation continues to remain fragile and reserve level remains inadequate because of a narrow export base, import dependence and the country's vulnerability to external shock.

A weak balance of payment situation poses a major problem for the government, committed to pay the foreign gas and power generation companies in foreign exchange. The payment time is knocking at the door. Unless this matter is adequately addressed now, as IMF has pointed out, the government will also risk a deteriorated fiscal situation in 1998-99.

The finance minister's hopes to lead the country towards a non-inflationary growth are increasingly appearing as a distant dream. The macro-economic stability has been affected to a great extent by a galloping inflation, now running at close to double digits.

Whatever are the figures arming the government to defend itself, poverty is the number one issue on the agenda. "The market has proved to be unable to address the poverty issue and the government's intervention in this regard is now called for," points out economist Dr. Omar Haider Chowdhury.

Agriculture gave better output last year but that has not helped the rural poor to buy more of their necessities. The current year's aman failure, followed by a stagnated boro, has given all the reasons to worry about the GDP growth.

"Expansion of VAT to retail level will have inflationary

pressure, but there can be a trade-off between resource mobilisation and inflation," warns Dr Chowdhury.

"The growth of the industrial sector has a very narrow base. And at the same time, rapid trade liberalisation had a displacement effect on the import substitution industries," says economist Dr. Zaid Bakht.

Exports have shown some positive trends, but the growth has relied heavily on 2-3 sectors. Incentives and policy direction must come to diversify exports.

Political analysts and economists say this is the time for the government to try to give the common man some good feeling. Small businesses haven't had a fair deal for the last one year, nor are the big ones happy.

"The next 12 months are very crucial for the government," says a political analyst, "if it wants to stand a better chance in 2001".

Motorcade

From Page 1

their incident of violence during the march.

Men and women of all ages stopped her at a number of places.

Some supporters of the long march uprooted rail tracks at Comilla while there was a clash with AL supporters in Chittagong.

At Baroirahat at around 3 am, she told the crowd, "We will change the peace accord to make tribes people and non-tribals equal".

She said, in three rallies before the finale at the Khagrachhari stadium, that the long march came to express support for them.

At the wee hours, large crowds of people awaited along the approach roads of Chittagong.

When the motorcade started for Khagrachhari from Chittagong at about 10 am after a four-hour pause, thousands joined the march and others stood along the road to cheer the marchers.

Motorcade on way

From Page 1

cade carrying long-marchers crossed Comilla town at around 11:30 pm last night.

When contacted, Deputy Commissioner of Comilla said at midnight last night that the long march motorcade led by the BNP chairperson had passed Comilla on way back to the capital about half an hour back.

JUST THINK

- There are more than 200 state owned enterprises (SOEs) in the country. These SOEs are incurring losses to the tune of Tk. 2500 crore annually.
- These SOEs have incurred a total loss of about Tk. 45000 crore since the independence of the country.
- If we can stop this loss, we can build a bridge like Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge every two years with the money.
- The Government has to provide huge subsidy every year to keep the SOEs alive.
- The money for this huge subsidy comes from your pockets in the form of taxes and from foreign loans.

WHAT WAY OUT ?

- The only way to get out of this unbearable situation is Privatization.
- The Privatization programme is being pursued settling the just dues of the workers and employees.
- While selling off the SOEs priority is being given to the workers and employees or their associations as buyers.

LOOK AT THE BENEFITS

- Privatization will foster technological progress, increase productivity, create more employment and will take our nation into a more prosperous future.
- Privatization will reduce the huge expenditure of the government. With this money, the government can implement various development programmes including building of new hospitals, educational institutions, roads and bridges.

So, please come forward to help make the Privatization programme a success.



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