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## Power situation Remain alert against any conspiracy: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the people to remain vigilant against any 'conspiracy' with power situation, reports UNB. "You will have to remain alert so that none can conspire with the power situation and create more sufferings of the people," she said addressing leaders of Jamalpur district Awami League at the Ganabhaban in the afternoon.

She alleged that politics of some parties is to create artificial crisis and take political advantage by holding the people hostage.

The Prime Minister said a vested quarter had tried to create an artificial crisis of essentials like salt and rice to create unrest and increase the sufferings of the people.

She said the government is trying hard to solve the power crisis, which was created for the lack of initiatives by the past government.

The Prime Minister said her government had inherited a chaotic situation everywhere, in sectors like power and economy, from the past government.

"We are running the country on the basis of proper policies with the aim to improve the living condition of the poor."

The previous governments  
See Page 12 Col 6

## Budget lacks sense of social justice: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party yesterday said that the proposed national budget for 1998-99 financial year clearly lacked a sense of social justice.

Giving reaction to the proposed budget, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Vice Chairman Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said: "The tax proposal shows that the indirect tax like VAT, which affects all the people including vast majority of the poor, has been extended to the retailers level. But the share of income tax that affects the affluent only has an insignificant role in the tax proposal. This is social injustice."

The party also said the budget reflects the government's foreign aid dependency.

However, 46 per cent of the ADP will be financed internally, a figure that remains almost constant for the last few years.

However, their claim ignored the BBS figures that per capita income increased by 7.73 per cent during this fiscal year.

Prof. Chowdhury said the health of the society shows a backward trend. He noted that repeated currency devaluation has also led to income erosion.

"There is no business in the society, nor is there any peace. Poverty has increased," he said.

His claim again contradicted a recent WB report that says poverty has reduced over years, but inequality increased. He added that the budget is opaque regarding claims of successes and visions.

Former Minister of State for Planning and BNP leader Dr Moin Khan, MP said the macro-economic index indicates that the economy is going downwards and the finance minister's own information also corroborates this fact.

"The minister claims a growth in the economy, but there is a downward trend in GDP growth," he said. "Inflation has increased by 66 per cent compared to last year and purchasing power of the people has decreased significantly. The foreign exchange reserve has significantly gone down. The budget totally lacks proposal to push the country ahead."

He criticised the government for the five per cent cut in this year's ADP.

"When we left power, our ADP was Tk 12500 crore, but this year it has been reduced to Tk 12200 crore. This is a net decrease in ADP. Moreover, the allocation in the proposed budget is also unrealistic. The government could not use this year's original allocation. How can they spend more on ADP?" he said.

"Look at their performance in their own commitment to See Page 12 Col 2

## BNP unlikely to join JS session today

By Nazmul Ashraf

BNP prefers to settle certain issues before joining the budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The party is unlikely to join the session when it resumes at 2 pm today.

"We'll finalise the date for our joining the budget session after further discussion in today's meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP)," a top BNP leader told The Daily Star last night.

Before joining the session, the party wants to ensure sufficient time for its lawmakers to discuss the proposed budget, decide its strategy for such discussion in the House and have its earlier agreement with the government fully implemented, highly placed party sources said.

BNP lawmakers are due to meet again at 4 pm today at the Sangsad Bhavan with Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The party strategy to face the government on the proposed budget, the recent long march to CHT, the government's alleged action against the long marchers and other crucial issues will be discussed at the meeting.

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## Budget: DCCI gives mixed reaction

Star Business Report

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) has given a mixed reaction to the proposed national budget for 1998-99, praising some measures in it and criticising the failure to address some major issues.

Members of the DCCI sat two times yesterday and the day before for detailed discussion on budget proposals. They pointed out some negative and some positive aspects of the proposed budget at the meetings, chaired by DCCI President Rashed Maksud Khan, said a press release.

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## BNP renews call for scrapping CHT accord

BNP yesterday renewed its call for scrapping the CHT accord and the related acts, reports UNB.

The call came from a meeting of the party's Standing Committee held at 29 Mintoo Road in the evening. BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia presided over the meeting.

The verdict of the people against the accord has been manifested in spontaneous participation of the people in the Long March towards CHT," said a statement issued after the meeting.

It called upon the people to make the June 18 countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal a success.

The meeting thanked the people who joined the Long March and expressed solidarity with the programme.

It condemned the ruling party for its attack on the Long March.

Expressing concern over power, gas and water crises, the meeting blamed the government for its failure in mitigating the sufferings of the people.

The meeting urged the people to build up resistance unitedly against the price hike of essentials and deterioration of law and order.

## Bilateral issues to dominate Hasina-Vajpayee talks

By M Anwarul Haq

Bilateral issues will dominate the official talks during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to New Delhi on Tuesday.

Besides, India is expected to explain its position on the nuclear issue and its security concerns.

Sheikh Hasina will pay a one-day visit to New Delhi on June 16 at the invitation of her Indian counterpart Atal Behari Vajpayee. The trip will be followed by another one-day trip to Pakistan capital on June 24.

The Prime Minister's entourage will comprise nearly 45 members.

It will include Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman, Principal Secretary to the PM Dr SA Samad, DG, UN desk in Foreign Ministry Jamil Majid, DG South Asia desk Sirajul Islam and some senior officials and newsmen.

Foreign Secretary Mostafizur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday that the trip would provide an opportunity for the first time for a bilateral meeting between the prime ministers of the two countries after the election of Vajpayee.

"It will essentially be a bilateral visit where the two leaders will get the opportunity to review and discuss the entire gamut of Indo-Bangladesh relations. The trip will also provide a scope for the two leaders to get acquainted on a one-to-one basis which would help in furthering bilateral cooperation," the foreign secretary said.

Diplomatic sources said the entire spectrum of relations between India and Bangladesh covering trade, investment, tariff concessions and cooperation in various fields will be reviewed during the visit.

"There are a lot of substantive issues that would figure in the agenda for talks between Hasina and Vajpayee," an informed source pointed out.

Some important Indian leaders including Home Minister LK Advani are expected to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Sheikh Hasina's Delhi trip follows requests by both Indian and Pakistan prime ministers on May 31 in response to letters from her counterparts in the two countries after their nuclear tests.

## Flood waters receding in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent  
SYLHET, June 13: Flood situation in the district marked some improvement today with water receding from the affected thanas.

However, all the rivers flowing through the districts are still flowing above danger level different points, official sources said. Flowing of water through the breaches in Surma-Kushiyara Dyke continued in Kanaighat, Jakkiganj and sadar thanas.

Flood waters are still flowing over Sylhet-Jakkiganj road which also connects Beani-bazar, Golapganj and Kanaighat thanas.

With recession of flood waters from Sari-Gowainghat road bus communication between the district headquarters and Gowainghat resumed today after six days.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Takukder Abdul Khalique today visited the flood-hit areas in Jakkiganj, Beani-bazar, Golapganj and Jaintapur thanas. While addressing meetings at different See Page 12 Col 8

## BUET classes resume today Syndicate to decide fate of 13 teachers, says VC

By Staff Correspondent

Classes at the BUET are scheduled to resume today, after nearly six weeks.

It could not, however, be confirmed whether students of architecture department will attend classes till a decision is taken regarding 13 teachers of the department who had resigned protesting introduction of new admission rules.

Asked about this, Prof. Iqbal Mahmud, who resigned as Vice Chancellor on May 4 and later resumed his 'routine duties', said yesterday. The exact situation will be clear, when classes start tomorrow (Sunday).

He however said teachers of architecture department have assured him that they would take classes.

About the 13 teachers, Prof. Mahmud said, "The Syndicate will take a decision regarding them."

The date for a syndicate meeting is yet to be fixed," he said in reply to a question.

Prof. Mahmud had resigned on May 4 protesting external interference in the BUET affairs. Following his resignation, 71 teachers resigned from their administrative posts the same day.

On May 5, the BUET Teachers' Association called an indefinite strike demanding 'return of Prof. Mahmud as VC' of the university and assurance from the highest authorities regarding non-interference in the BUET affairs.

During the month-long stalemate at the university, informal negotiations were held between leaders of the BUET Teachers' Association and some political personalities to bring about an end to the crisis, but without any result.

BUETTA twice sought an appointment with the Prime Minister to explain their position and also submitted a memorandum at her office on May 26. But they could not yet meet the prime minister who is also the Chancellor of the University.

Prof. Mahmud resumed his 'routine duties' as VC on May 12, but any official communication regarding non-acceptance of his resignation letter is yet to be made from the Chancellor's See Page 12 Col 5



Spain's Raul past Nigeria's Mobi Oparaku (2) on his way to scoring the second goal for Spain during their Group D World Cup match yesterday. Nigeria beat Spain 3-2. — AP/UNB photo

## Mexico beat South Korea 3-1

LYON, June 13: Mexico came back from behind to earn a hard-fought 3-1 victory against South Korea, who were reduced to 10 men after 30 minutes of their World Cup Group E first round match today, reports Reuter.

South Korea opened the scoring in the 28th minute when a curling free-kick by midfielder Ha Seok-Ju from 25 metres out deflected off Duilio Davino's head, leaving veteran goalkeeper Jorge Campos rooted to the spot.

But Ha turned from hero to villain two minutes after scoring when he was dismissed for a scything tackle from behind on Jesus Ramirez.

The South Koreans, chasing their first victory in five World Cup final appearances, withstood the pressure until the 51st minute when substitute Ricardo Pelaez hit the net from close range.

Pelaez, who had come on as a second-half substitute, pounced on a rebound from a corner.

Mexico, who had won only eight of their 33 previous World Cup matches, then piled on the pressure and Luis Hernandez, dubbed 'the Matador,' tapped in a high Ramirez cross from the left in the 75th minute.

It was only a matter of time before the Mexicans struck again and Hernandez was on target once more in the 84th minute when he picked up a neat pass from fellow striker Cuauhtemoc Blanco and fired low into the far corner of the net.

It was the ninth defeat in 12 World Cup final matches for the South Koreans, who drew the other three games.

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WORLD CUP '98 UPDATES

WORLD CUP '98

kick-off

Today's matches

Group F	Yugoslavia vs Iran, 6:30 pm BST
Group H	Argentina vs Japan, 9:30 pm BST
	Jamaica vs Croatia, 1:00 am BST.

## Indian company to drill 9 gas wells

By Mizan Ali with Iqbal Siddiquee in Sylhet

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) of India has been awarded contracts for drilling nine gas wells and developing six other wells in three gas fields at Rashidpur, Habiganj and Titas, according to sources petrobangla.

The ONGC, an Indian government owned company, was awarded the contracts last month. The award followed an international competitive bidding, held about a year back, the sources said.

The company is scheduled to start work by September this year and gas is expected to be produced from the wells within next one year.

These wells are expected to produce 200 million cubic feet of gas every day," an official said.

The ONGC will drill three wells at Rashidpur gasfield under an agreement signed with the Sylhet Gas Field Ltd, a subsidiary of the Petrobangla. It was signed under the Gas Infrastructure Development Project of World Bank, the sources said.

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## Arrested accused snatched from police in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent  
KHULNA, June 13: An accused in the murder of Jubo League leader Kamrul was snatched from police by a group of people about ten minutes after his arrest from a shop at Pabla under Daulatpur thana today.

According to witnesses, the group of people, allegedly led by KCC Ward Commissioner Shaikh Lutfor Rahman, snatched Hasan Ali, 26, from two inspectors of KMP while being taken to Daulatpur thana with his hands tied with a rope.

The people overpowered inspectors Wahiduzzaman and Shaikh Nazrul Islam and snatched away Hasan Ali, witnesses said.

Hasan Ali is one of the eight FIR named accused in the murder.

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## Supervisory body to visit Rohingya camps tomorrow

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, June 13: The Rohingya refugee repatriation supervisory committee, headed by Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Shakawat Hossain, is likely to visit the two transit camps for Rohingya refugees at Teknai on June 15 to assess the overall situation there, committee source said.

The visit, first after formation of the committee last month, is aimed at facilitating resumption of the now suspended repatriation of about 22,000 Rohingya refugees sheltered at Kutupalong and Noapara transit camps.

The committee will also hold a meeting at Cox's Bazar, after visiting the camps, to review the situation.

About 2,30,000 Rohingya refugees were repatriated to their homeland Myanmar as per an agreement between the two neighbouring countries. But the rest 22,000 are still at the two transit camps as they declined to go back home voluntarily, sources pointed out.

## 3 ex-Shantibahini members and 5 tribals abducted

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, June 13: At least eight tribals including three former members of Shantibahini were abducted allegedly, by a group of rivals at gunpoint prior to a 'peace rally' at Gialachhari village under Nariachhar thana in Rangamati hill district today, sources said.

District administration sources at Rangamati, when contacted, confirmed abduction of five tribals and three former members of Shantibahini.

The sources suspected that the tribals were abducted by activists of Pahari Chhatra Parishad which is opposing the CHT peace accord.

Security patrol teams and police began a man-hunt in the surrounding areas to rescue the abducted persons.

Police said a group of armed tribals kidnapped the tribals at around 1 pm when they were preparing to hold a 'peace rally' on the premises of Gialachhari School.

## 2 women shot in city gunfight

Two women were shot during a gunfight between two rival groups at Ibrahimpur in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The victims, identified as Farida Yasmin Sheema, 25, and Nasima, 30 were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Farida received bullet in her chest and Nasima in her belly and thigh.

The clash erupted in the afternoon when a group attacked a house at 317 Ibrahimpur where the rival group took shelter.

Police said both the groups traded several rounds of gunshots during the clash to take control of the area.

Witnesses said police rushed to the spot after one hour and could not arrest anyone.

Police were deployed to avert any further clash.

## Terrorists gouge out eyes of AL leader in Trishal

MYMENSINGH, June 13: A group of armed terrorists gouged out both the eyes of a local Awami League leader of Harimranga Magurjura village in Trishal thana yesterday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the gang picked up Sohrab Hossain, 40, at gun point from his residence at 6 pm and took him to the adjacent paddy field.

They tortured him and gouged out his eyes. Nobody dared to come forward to protest the incident.

Local people rescued him after the armed terrorists left the place. He was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Police suspected that the incident might be a sequel to previous enmity. A case was filed with Trishal police in this connection.

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**Govt's mistakes visit on the country**

Column: Between The Lines

by Kuldip Nayar

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**Focus**

**Law and Our Rights**

An interview of Tapan Bose, Secretary General of South Asia Forum for Human Rights with The Daily Star

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