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Today's issue 16 pages

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Lack of quorum JS session resumes 104 minutes behind schedule

By Staff Correspondent
Lack of quorum during the current budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad is causing delay in the resumption of the session on every working day.
The chronic delay reached its peak yesterday as the session resumed 104 minutes behind the schedule. On the day, no lawmaker was present in the House at 2 pm when the session was scheduled to resume. There were only two members in the House at 2:30 pm.
Twenty-five members were

2 JS bodies recast

By Staff Correspondent
Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury has recast two of the parliamentary committees.
He announced the revised petition committee and the library committee in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.
The Speaker named Mohammad Shahjahan of the Awami League in place of State Minister for Textiles A K M Jahangir Hossain and Shaikh Razzak Ali of BNP instead of Fazlul Haq of the same party in the petition committee.
In the library committee, Mohammad Shahjahan of BNP has replaced his party lawmaker M K Anwar while Kazi Golam Morshed of BNP has been named in place of Abu Yusuf Mohammad Khalilur

We regret

We had to drop four pages — Focus, National, Features and Miscellaneous — from today's issue because of countrywide power failure last night.

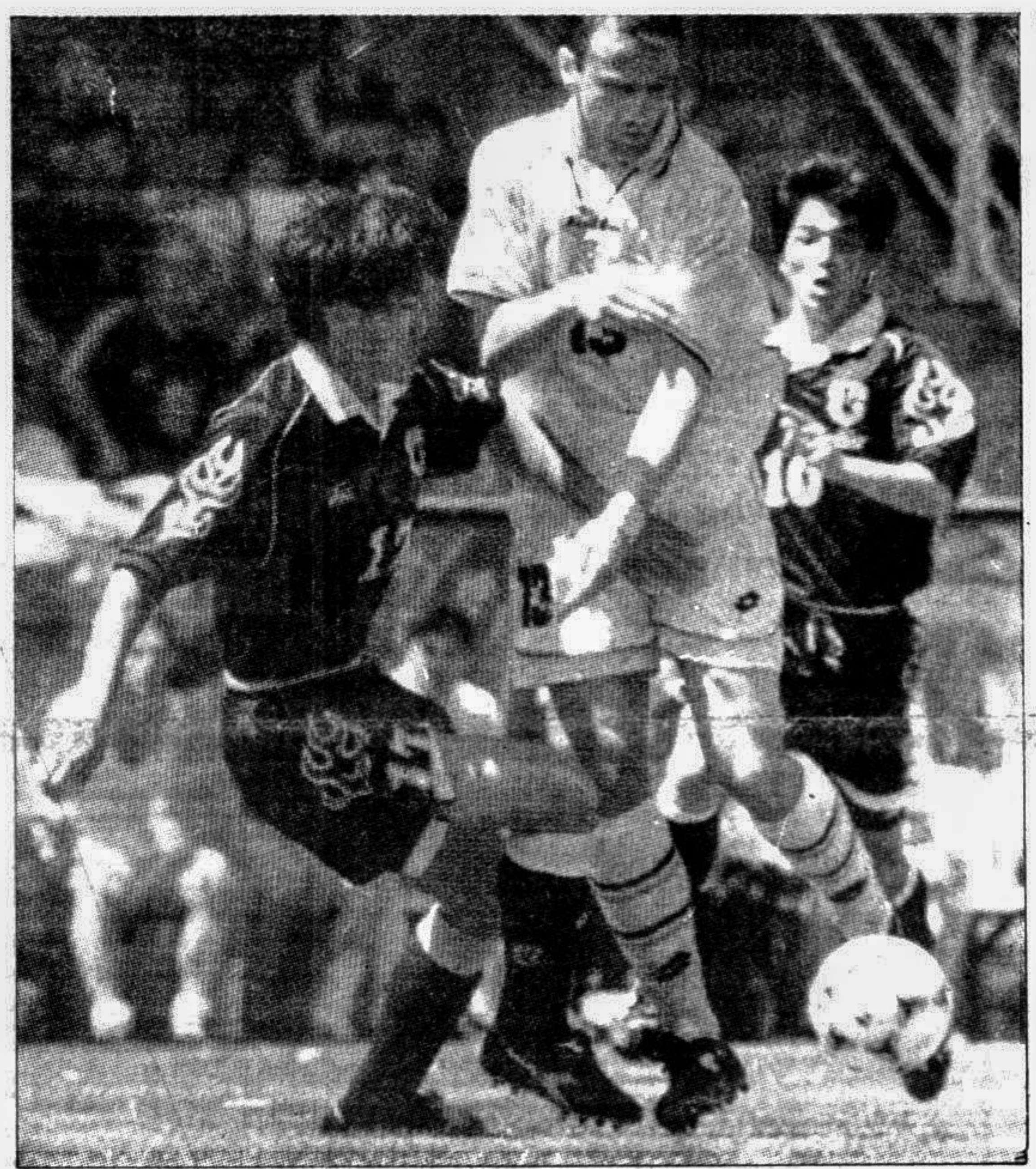
Inside Today

- Article**
- The Policy of an Eye for an Eye would Leave Everyone Blind'** by Anam A Choudhury Page 4
- Business**
- Govt privatises two more train services
- Both DSE and CSE indices fall Pages 6, 7
- Supplement**
- Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page supplement on 'Bangabandhu Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge' on Pages 13-16

'Technical fault' in East-West inter-connector at Ghorasal Countrywide power failure

By Special Correspondent

The country plunged into darkness due to failure of the national power grid twice at 7:10 pm and 9:45 pm yesterday.
The power failure was caused by a "technical fault" in the East-West inter-connector at Ghorasal, PDB official said.
Power supply was restored in the city partially at 11:45 pm.
"We are providing about 300 MW to the national grid," a PDB official said at 11:55 last night.
The official said Dhaka city, which consumes 700 to 100 MW of power daily had to go with 30 MW of power when power from the Baghabari station was supplied to the Bangabhaban sub-station after the second failure.
A circuit breaker broke down at Kalyanpur sub-station at about 11:30 pm causing power disruption at the Prime Minister's official residence. Ganobhaban sources said they had to use generators for about 15 minutes.
Another official source told The Daily Star at 12:05 am that they were hoping to restore normal supply by 1 am.
Barring small areas covered by mini power stations at Bogra, Rangpur, Syedpur, Barisal and the barge-mounted stations at Khulna, there was no power supply in other cities, towns and in rural areas.
The blackout was the longest in recent times and second in two months.
Even police communications were disrupted. Power Development Board officials working at their control room in candle light slammed down telephones when asked to explain what caused the failure.
Hospitals and clinics tried to tackle emergencies with power from their own generators. Petrol pumps having generators operated but others kept closed.
The PDB control room remained dark till 9:45 pm when power supply resumed in some city areas.
Power supply collapsed again five minutes later.



Mario Stanic of Croatia, center, tries to dribble past Japanese player Yutaka Akita, left, as Hiroshi Nanami of Japan looks on during their World Cup Group H soccer match yesterday. — AP/UNB photo (Story on page 12)

Mexico, Belgium share points

BORDEAUX, June 20: Mexico and Belgium fought out a 2-2 draw in a World Cup Group E match played today in sweltering heat, reports Reuters.
One player from each side was sent off for tackles from behind as Mexico came back from 2-0 down to grab a point.
Marc Wilmost got both Belgium's goals, striking either side of half time while Alberto Garcia Aspe, with a penalty, and Cuauhtemoc Blanco were on target for Mexico in the second half.
Wilmost scored his first in the 43rd minute. The muscular midfielder found himself unmarked at the far post and steered a Luis Oliviera corner through the legs of Mexican keeper Jorge Campos.
Mexico had enjoyed the better of the early stages but their options were severely limited after defender Pavel Pardo became the latest victim of FIFA's clampdown on hard tackles. Scottish referee Hugh Dallas showed him the red cards in the 29th minute for a challenge on Vital Borkelmans.
Wilmost added his second in the 48th minute, running on to a neat through pass from Enzo

JOHN PLAYER GOLD LEAF LIGHTS
WORLD CUP '98 UPDATES

Power failure Police lathicharge BNP processionists

Police swung into action on agitated BNP supporters who staged protests against power failure in the capital last night, reports UNB.
BNP sources said the processions were brought out in different parts of the city at about 9:30 pm and police resorted to lathicharge to disperse the angry protesters.
The processions were brought out from Gopibagh, North-South Road, Green Road, Mouchak, Shajahanpur, Maghbar and other parts of the city, the sources said.
The whole country plunged into darkness due to failure in the national grid shortly after 7 in the evening and power supply in many areas of the city could not be restored till writing of this report at 12:15 am.

Young man shot in city, dies at DMCH

By Staff Correspondent
A young man who was shot in the city's Mohakhali area Friday died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.
The dead was identified as Akram, 25, son of Sher Ali. He worked as a receptionist at a guest house at Banani, police said.
Police said Akram was involved in criminal activities in the area and was gunned down by a rival group of criminals due to previous enmity.
Akram and four of his accomplices were taking tea at a tea stall at Akizpara in Mphakhali area at about 1:30 pm Friday when about ten youths appeared there and fired at least ten shots at them, police said. Fatally injured Akram was rushed to the DMCH where he died at about 6 am yesterday. The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.
Police arrested two persons in connection with the incident but did not disclose their names.
Aysha Khatun, mother of the victim, filed a murder case with Gulshan thana yesterday in this connection.

Businessman murdered in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, June 20: Killing of a non-tribal businessman by some miscreants sparked off tension at Rangamati today, reports UNB.
Victim Zakaria Swadagar, 47, of Manikchhari Bazar was killed near Keching Crossing on Rangamati-Khagrachhari road this afternoon.
Witnesses said Zakaria along with his friend Abdullah were returning from

No alternative to peace: PM Minorities have right to preserve their identity

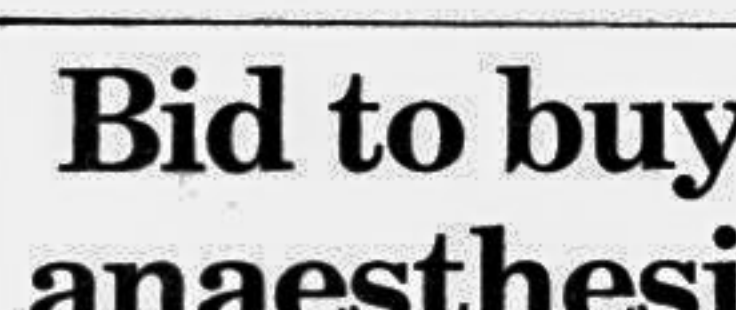
By Special Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opened a two day international conference on "Peace and Chittagong Hill Tracts" in the city yesterday reiterating her government's commitment to attain, sustain, promote and strengthen peace in the region and in the world.
State Minister for Energy Rafiqul Islam and high officials of the PDB could not be contacted over telephone despite repeated efforts.
UNB adds: Officials said the 230 KV line of the East-West inter-connector near Ghorasal was snapped due to technical faults. Instantly, all power generating stations stopped functioning in December last year.
"If we can do anything to bring about or promote peace anywhere in the world, we would be most happy to render our services," she told the inaugural session.
The conference, jointly organized by the government and the UNDP, focuses on assessing the post-insurgency needs to start a development process in the region. The conference is being held at the International Conference Centre.
UNB adds: "Peace has no alternative, no substitute and no replacement," she said, urging all to keep this fundamental nature of peace in view and help the nation to maintain and strengthen peace that has been attained.
Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah, peace worker from Netherlands Henny Vendergraaf, UNDP resident representative David E Lockwood and ERD Secretary Dr AKM Mashur Rahman also spoke at the inaugural session.
Delegates from Africa, Europe and South East Asia are taking part in the conference. Tribal leaders including PCJSS chief Jyotirindra Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma, and

Tk 486 cr DCC budget for '98-99 announced

By Staff Correspondent

Mayor Mohammad Hanif yesterday announced a Tk 486.17 crore budget of the Dhaka City Corporation for fiscal 1998-99 while his revised budget for the current year showed a performance shortfall of more than 25 per cent.
In fiscal 1997-98, the original budget was Tk 402.71 crore. It was revised down to Tk 301.11 crore. The Mayor attributed the shortfall to a Tk 80 crore cut in development spending.
Originally, he said, Tk 263.15 crore projects for development work and rehabilitation of roads and drainage system were planned. The figure was trimmed down to Tk 183.86 crore (30.13 per cent cut) "in the context of prevailing situation", the Mayor said but did not explain what exactly forced him to do that.
Announcing the budget in the presence of journalists, ward commissioners and officials at the Mayor Bhaban, the Mayor said that of the total amount of the budget for 1998-99, Tk 198.17 crore would come from revenue earnings and Tk 200 crore from government contribution and aid agencies.
In the last budget, government contribution and foreign grants were shown at Tk 104.00 crore, a figure reduced to Tk 63 crore in the revised budget, making a shortfall of Tk 41 crore.
In the new budget, revenue expenditure has been estimated at Tk 99.11 crore. Of the total budget, over 71 per cent has been earmarked for development activities.



Mayor Hanif

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Bid to buy 33 'unsafe' anaesthesia machines

By Staff Correspondent

Ignoring recommendations of the technical evaluation committee (TEC) and the parliamentary committee on estimates, the Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD) is going ahead with a decision to purchase 33 anaesthesia machines and thana health complexes.
The machines are to be procured under a loan from International Development Agency (IDA).
According to documents obtained by The Daily Star, the TEC at its meeting on October 13, 1997 recommended against buying the quoted machine (model Seneca-2000) offered by Dodhya Agencies, a Pakistan-based company. It is "of heterogeneous origin and technical

WORLD CUP '98
kick-off Today's matches

- Group F
- Germany vs Yugoslavia, 6:30 pm BST
- Group H
- Argentina vs Jamaica, 9:30 pm BST
- Group F
- United States vs Iran, 1:00 am BST

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98

DRAW OF ROUND-6 TODAY

5pm Jatiya Press Club

Guests Include
TV, Stage & Film Personality Subarna Mustafa
Ace goalkeeper Mohammad Ponir
Ace footballer Badal Roy
Ace footballer Ashrafuddin Chunnun
Sports organiser Sirajul Islam Bachchu and
Noted vocalist Tapan Choudhury

You are most cordially invited

And Remember
Round-7 is already on
See the Sports Page NOW!

Rajuk market at Uttara unused for 4 yrs

By Morshed Ali Khan

While an unauthorised kitchen market with more than one hundred shops on a huge chunk of public land at Uttara Sector-3 does brisk business, a four-storied modern bazar built by Rajuk remains 'abandoned' hardly 200 yards away at Sector-6.
Some Uttara residents said the new kitchen market, built about four years ago at a cost of Tk 3.14 crore, was deliberately kept unused so that the huge chunk of land at Sector-3 beside the Rajuk's staff quarters, could be under control of some mastans.
"This is a classic example of how a section of people encourage grabbing of public land in the name of community service and make people pay for it," said a retired government official and resident of Sector-3. Some other residents alleged that the traders at the unauthorised market are so powerful in the locality that it entirely depends on them whether the new Rajuk market can do business or not. There were instances of chasing traders away from the four-storied market after Rajuk tried to attract crowd for business.
Mohammad Ruhul Amin, a member of the traders association at the unauthorised market refuted allegation of 'foul play' and said Rajuk's decision to build the four-storied market at Sector-6 was a mistake because it chose a 'backward place' where traders and buyers do not want to go.
The Rajuk market with all its modern facilities including car park, broad stairs, waste disposal system and mosaic stalls for fish, vegetable and



The four-storied Rajuk market at Uttara. —Star photo

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