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83.60 lakh people unemployed, JS told

The total number of unemployed people in the country is 83.60 lakh, State Minister for Planning, Science and Technology Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from opposition BNP member Major (Retd) M Akhteruzzaman (Kishoreganj), the state minister gave a break-up of unemployed people on the basis of educational qualifications.

According to the statistics, the number of highly educated persons is 4,000, diploma engineers 10,000, engineers 5,000, doctors 5,000, post-graduates 26,000, graduates 1 lakh 10 thousand, HSC 13 lakh 37 thousand, SSC 21 lakh 19 thousand and below SSC 47 lakh 44 thousand.

3,289 police personnel to be recruited

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam yesterday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that the government had a plan to recruit 3,289 police personnel during the fiscal 1998-99, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Awami League member Shamsur Rahman Sharif (Faba), the Home Minister said out of the total police personnel, 54 would be ASP, 227 male SI, 45 lady SI, 391 sergeants and 2570 constables.

The minister said, besides, a proposal for creating the posts of about 10,000 police personnel during the fiscal year was also under active consideration of the government.

Hasina, Sharif discuss bilateral, regional issues Dhaka welcomes Pak offer to resume talks with India

ISLAMABAD, Jun 24: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has welcomed Pakistan proposal to resume talks with India to discuss all matters, including the Kashmir issue, and for offering a non-aggression pact with India, report agencies.

In a statement to the press at the time of her departure from Islamabad ending a day-long visit here, Sheikh Hasina said that Bangladesh became a party to the NPT and a signatory to the CTBT because it felt that these treaties were a step towards achieving the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament.

In her statement Sheikh Hasina said that during the talks her Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif told her that nuclear tests carried by his country were "essential in the interest of preservation of Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence as well as for regional peace and stability."

"Both the objectives, namely seeking ways and means to enhance bilateral cooperation and to increase my understanding on the nuclear issue that concerns us all in one way or the other, were fulfilled," she said in the statement.

The statement was read out by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad after the talks between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif that lasted about one hour and 20 minutes at the Prime Minister's house in the afternoon.

Sharif was assisted in the talks by Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan, Population Minister Syeda Abida Hossain, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddiq Khan Kanju and Foreign Secretary Shamsad Ahmed.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman assisted Sheikh Hasina in the talks.

Emerging from the talks, Prime Minister Sharif told Bangladesh journalists that he and Sheikh Hasina had "constructive, fruitful and substantive talks."

Asked when he contemplates visiting Bangladesh, Sharif said, "very soon" without elaborating.

Earlier the two prime ministers had a 30-minute exclusive meeting.

Earlier, Prime Minister See Page 12 Col 3



Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif receiving his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina at Chaklala airport yesterday. —AFP photo

Rape incident Dr Jinnah's bail rejected, sent to jail

MYMENSINGH, June 24: Dr M R Jinnah and his associate Josna, accused in the sensational rape case, were sent today to jail here following rejection of the bail by a court, reports UNB.

The order of the Special Tribunal Court on Women and Child Repression came in line with the decision of the Supreme Court which had struck down the High Court order that granted an interim bail to the accused.

Dr Jinnah was accused of violating Roni in his Niramoy Clinic in the town on January 4 when she went there for treatment of her ailing father. Aya of the clinic Josna was also accused of complicity in the incident.

After rejection of the bail, a group of armed supporters of Dr Jinnah attacked the plaintiff, Advocate Emdadul Haq Millat and UNB correspondent Jahangir Alam Lilon in front of See Page 12 Col 2

BNP returns to JS today

By Nazmul Ashraf

Lawmakers of the main opposition BNP have decided to return to the Jatiya Sangsad today.

They are scheduled to join the current budget session when it resumes at 2 this afternoon.

The decision was taken yesterday at a BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) meeting that concluded after four sittings since June 12.

"The decision to join the session has been taken... We told it earlier that we're willing to go back to the House. But it took us a few days to join as our party MPs preferred to discuss the matter," BNP chief and leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia told newsmen after the BNPPP met at 6.20 pm.

Briefing the newsmen earlier, Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain said they will join today's sitting of the budget session that began on June 10.

BNP did not attend the parliament proceedings since it walked out of the House on May 3 during the last session, protesting "limited discussion" on the CHT bills.

In the meantime, the JS passed the supplementary budget for fiscal 1997-98 and began discussion on the proposed budget for 1998-99.

"We'll meet the Speaker soon to discuss allocation of time for us to discuss the proposed budget and non-implementation of the four-point agreement which we informed him earlier," Delwar said.

He said that Begum Zia instructing the party lawmakers to project the government's failures in the House and also to continue agitations on the streets.

An influential whip of the BNP told The Daily Star that Begum Zia also asked the party MPs to carry forward the agitation, giving priority to its demand for mid-term elections.

Besides Begum Zia, top BNP leaders including Prof AQM Badruddoza Choudhury, Khandakar Delwar Hossain, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, M K Anwar and party whips Mashur Rahman, Amanullah Aman and Joyanal Abedin See Page 12 Col 5

Bus journey to capital from Natore reduced by 3 hrs now

By M A Ali

Bus journey to the capital from the northern district of Natore has now become much easier as the Bangabandhu Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (BJMB) has reduced the journey time by more than three hours.

This correspondent (The Daily Star representative at Natore) boarded a passenger bus in the Rajshahi-Dhaka route at 6:45 am yesterday, a day after the grand opening of BJMB, and reached the capital at 11:45 am, having two breaks on the way.

Previously, the 220 km journey through Nagarbari and Aricha ferry ghats usually took as much as nine hours and more at times.

The supervisor of the bus paid Tk 800 as toll at the western end of the bridge and then with 40 passengers on board, the vehicle moved onto the longest bridge in South Asia.

As almost all the passengers expressed their desire to take a walk on the newly opened bridge which offered a breathtaking view of the river and the surroundings, the driver parked the bus at the middle of the bridge.

The passengers got down from the bus and started walking and looking around joyfully.

While talking to this correspondent, Momena Khatun of Bogra town, who was walking on the bridge, said that she and her businessman husband came to see the bridge in a rented car.

Swapan, a passenger of the bus said, he was happy that the bus owners did not increase the fare.

However, the supervisor of the bus said that it was their first trip in the new route to the capital through Bogra, Sirajganj, BJMB, Tangail and Nabinagar of Savar. So they were yet to take a decision as regards any change in bus fare.

The bus halted on the bridge for about 30 minutes and at Tangail for another 30 minutes, for giving the passengers a tea break. At Tangail, local toll collectors extracted Tk 50 from the bus conductor. Asked why they collected the toll, the conductor said, "this is a normal practice in local routes" and this road requires vigilance by authorities to check such extortions.

President urges political parties Reach consensus at least on curbing violence against children & women

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the political parties to arrive at a consensus at least on curbing violence against children and women, report agencies.

"Political sincerity and national consensus are essential to curb terrorism apart from formulating stringent laws and their proper application," he said while inaugurating a two-day workshop at the Osmany Memorial Hall auditorium.

But, he regretted that sharp differences of opinions are increasing among the political parties day by day instead of forging understanding among them.

The workshop on "The bill for enacting special laws regarding prevention of crime relating to women, children and terrorism" was organised by Jatiya Mahila Sangstha to gather opinions for preparing a specific recommendation.

Termining terrorism as a dangerous problem, Shahabuddin said besides the international drug, women and children traffickers and organised criminal gangs are also active in the country.

The President said, "It cannot be denied that the causes of terrorist activities committed in the country lie with the question of narrow political interest and deriving financial benefit by some of high society people."

Regarding the proposed law on women and children repression, Shahabuddin questioned the very necessity to formulate a new law. Because, he argued, a law regarding women and children repression is still in force.

The essence of the proposed law is similar to that of the previous law of 1995, he said, adding that only a new provision has been added to the proposed law.

The new provision can be inducted through amendment of the present law, Justice Shahabuddin suggested.

He said the success of any law depend on its proper application and thereby ensuring punishment of the offenders as per law. A law can be called the See Page 12 Col 1

Kidnapped CMC student freed

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, June 24: A student of Chittagong Medical College kidnaped for ransom, was freed by the abductors early this morning after four days.

Police said the abductors set Mahub Rashid free blindfolded at armed 5:30 am near Muradpur crossing in the city.

Mahub, a fourth year student of CMC, was allegedly abducted by some gunmen from Chandgao residential area on Sunday, police said. The abductors had demanded a ransom of Tk ten lakh over phone calls to his residence. But it could not be known whether any ransom was paid.

Police last night arrested five suspects belonging to an See Page 12 Col 7

PM returns

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home last night after a day-long visit to Islamabad, reports UNB.

During the visit, she had an exclusive meeting with her Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif at Chaklala Airport at 8:15 pm (BST). She reached Dhaka at 11 pm.

Star MAG TOMORROW

With the rising tide of violence inflicted on child domestic workers, this week's Star Weekend Magazine takes a deeper look into the pervasive problem.

Inside Today Article

Is There an Easy Solution to Kashmir Problem?

Column: Panorama
 by Dilara Chowdhury
 Page 4

Focus

Budget proposals and the capital market
 Page 5

Barisal-5 bypolls 11 nomination papers filed

From Staff Correspondent
 BARISAL, June 24: Eleven candidates from different political parties have filed nomination papers at the office of the Deputy Commissioner here today for the by election to Barisal-5 seat of the Jatiya Sangsad, scheduled for July 20.

The seat fell vacant following the death of BNP MP Dr Ehteshamul Haq Nasim Biswas.

The candidates are: Majbar Rahman Sarwar, BNP; Maniruzzaman Khan Faruk, JP; Krishak Mohammad Sadek, Krishak; Sramik Mukti Andolan, Sheikh Mohiuddin Ahmed, Ganatantrik Sarbahara Party, Enayet Peer Khan, Independent, Labanal Haq Du- See Page 12 Col 5

WORLD CUP '98 KICK-OFF

Today's matches

Group E
 Holland vs Mexico, 8:00 pm BST (Live)
 Belgium vs S Korea, 10:30 pm BST (Recorded)

Group F
 Germany vs Iran, 1:00 am BST (Live)
 USA vs Yugoslavia, 3:30 am BST (Recorded)

South Africans' hopes end

BORDEAUX, France, Jun 24: Two penalty kicks gave Saudi Arabia a 2-2 draw with South Africa today, ending the South Africans' remote hopes of making the second round in their first World Cup appearance, reports AP.

Sami al-Jaber scored in first-half injury time and Yousef al-Thinyani netted in the 74th minute for the Saudis, who salvaged a point after two losses that ensured the team's first-round elimination and cost coach Carlos Alberto Parreira his job.

Shaun Bartlett scored in the 18th minute and added a penalty in second-half injury time for South Africa, which needed to win and make up a four-goal deficit to Denmark in goal differential in order to advance. Although Denmark lost 2-1 to France in the other Group C finale, the Danes qualified along with the French from the group.

Both South African penalties were called on defender Pierre Issa, who had a forgettable World Cup. Issa also gave up an own goal in the Bafana Bafana's first game against France.

To Issa's credit, the first call was questionable. Chilean referee Mario Sanchez Yantén awarded the spot kick, even though replays showed Saudi captain Yousef al-Thinyani fell to the turf despite the slightest touch from Issa's outstretched arm.

The contact on the second penalty was initiated by the Saudi striker Ibrahim al- See Page 12 Col 5

JOHN PLAYER GOLD LEAF LIGHTS

France top Group C

LYON, June 24: A fine 55th-minute goal by Emmanuel Petit steered France to a 2-1 win over Denmark today, putting the home nation into the second round as Group C winners, reports AP.

France won a game that it dominated for long periods after a scramble in the penalty area. The ball was cleared to Petit, who hit a powerful left-footed drive from 18 yards past Peter Schmeichel.

By beating Denmark, France becomes the first team to win its three opening games. South Africa's failure to beat Saudi Arabia in the other Group C match means that Denmark joins the host nation in the last 16 despite its defeat.

Djorkaeff put France ahead with a 12th minute penalty, given after David Trezequet, storming through on goal after good work by Vincent Candela, was tripped by centerback Jes Høgh.

Denmark protested the penalty, claiming that Høgh had taken the ball first, but referee Pierluigi Collina had no hesitation in pointing to the spot.

Schmeichel got a touch to Djorkaeff's penalty, struck low to his right, but couldn't keep the ball out.

Against the run of play, Denmark equalised in the 42nd minute, when Martin Jørgensen, first to react to a quick free kick, was wrestled to the ground by Candela.

Michael Laudrup calmly slotted the ball to the left of Fabien Barthez to level the scores at 1-1.

France, with six points from two games, began the match knowing that a draw would be enough to secure first place in See Page 12 Col 8

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98

DRAW OF ROUND-7 TODAY

5pm Jatiya Press Club

Guests Include

Ace footballer Abdus Salam Murshedy
 Ace footballer Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib
 Ace footballer Zakir Hossain

You are most cordially invited

And Remember
 Round-8 begins from today
 See the Sports Page NOW!

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Sub: International Tender Notice For Sale Of Enterprises

International Tenders on the prescribed forms are hereby invited from local and foreign buyers (Individual, Company, Co-operative body, Employees' Association) for sale of the following enterprises owned by the Government on as is where is basis. Intending buyers will have to submit separate prescribed tender forms and other required papers duly filled in and supported by necessary documents for each enterprise.

	Name & Address of the Enterprises	Brief Information
1	Sk. Mujtaba & Company, 46, Imamganj, Dhaka.	The company which only owns land and building is located at Imamganj, Dhaka on 0.141 acres of land having 16,416 sq. ft. of floor space of buildings & structures. The enterprise is in the heart of the old Dhaka commercial centre.
2	Bangladesh Textile Mills, Dhamgarh, Narayanganj.	Established in 1954 (BMRE 1985.) Total land Area 15.65 Acres. Out of this, 8.00 Acres will be sold. The mill has 17640 spindles and 210 looms and it produces yarn and fabrics. The mill is closed down since March '93.

Conditions:

- Set of prescribed forms, tender conditions and other related papers can be procured from the Secretary on all working days from 01.07.98 to 05.08.98 during office hours on cash payment of Tk. 5,000/- (Taka Five Thousand only) or US\$ 125 (one Hundred Twenty Five) only which is non-refundable.
- Interested foreigners, Bangladeshi citizens living abroad, overseas commercial firms etc., willing to procure the tender forms may contact Bangladesh High commissions/Embassies in London, Washington, Brussels, Kuala Lumpur, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Islamabad, New Delhi, Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul on or after 09.07.98
- Relevant data relating to the enterprises are available with the Privatization Board (Tel: 9563763-5 Fax: 880-2-9556433) and can be seen by the intending buyers during all working days from 01.07.98 to 05.08.98. These documents will also be available in the above mentioned High Commissions/Embassies.
- The tender box will be closed at 12:00 noon on 06.08.98 and opened at 12:30 p.m. on the same date.
- Tenders found incomplete or otherwise faulty shall stand cancelled. No explanation, appeal, to review or reconsider such a cancellation shall be entertained.
- The Privatization Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Secretary