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Guarantee

with major airlines

By Shehab Ahmed

ning to enter into an alliance

not divulge the details. But Biman's Managing Director Air Commodore M Rafiqul Islam yesterday said that the efforts are still at a preliminary stage.

suitable partner for the alliance to raise our capacity and meet the growing demands in the next millennium," he told The Daily Star.

"We are exploring the market," the Biman MD said. He said the airline is planning to acquire at least two aircraft and undergo management

restructuring in the next fiscal "Our target is to haul 1.5 million passengers and increase cargo carrying capacity by 50 per cent and turn out a net profit", he added.

In the current fiscal, which is ending on June 30, the airline earned Tk 1209.09 crore in revenue, which is 2.03 per cent higher against the target of Tk

It operated 11494 flights, carrying 1264798 passengers and 31490 tonnes of cargo between July 1, 1997 and June 24

this year, he said. International stations contributed 55 per cent of the revenue, Islam said.

The airline operates flights in 24 destinations. "We are planning to open a new flight to Manchester in the United Kingdom, and one flight each to Jeddah. Rome and London in the next winter beginning October 1," he added.

From Page 1

had hit at the root of produc-

getary allocation on unproduc-

tive sectors, he posed a question

how the rate of national growth

would be raised and poverty al-

leviated when 63 per cent of al-

location would be spent on the

lator and former state minister

planning, accused the govern-

ment of failures in maintaining

the growth rate. "The growth

rate in the GDP which was 5.9

per cent last year has come

down to 5.6 per cent in the pre-

government for 'unacceptable'

rate of inflation over the last

couple of years. He even ques-

Criticising the government

Dr T I M Fazle Rabbi of

Jatiya Party observed that the

proposed budget clearly lacked

transparency. "In his budget

speech, the Finance Minister

has claimed that some Tk six

thousand crore have been allo-

cated for poverty alleviation.

But we see only a little more

than Tk one thousand crore

that has been allocated to the

been no allocation of funds for

human resource development.

"One cannot expect develop-

ment in the country without

spending money on human re-

the finance minister's claim

that he has proposed increased

allocations for the education

and health sector. "If you adjust

Trains to ply

From Page

was the first train that plied on

the dual gauge rail track over

the bridge carrying Prime Min-

ister Sheikh Hasina and other

dignitaries on Tuesday after

track has already been laid on

the bridge and its two sides and

two new railway stations

named Bangabandhu East and

Banabandhu West have been set

up seven km off both ends of the

years for people to travel to the

capital by train from the west-

ern region of the country down

the bridge as rail tracks are to

working on i a . Tk 1155 crore

project for laying of a 80 km

dual gauge rail track along the

Joydevpur alignment in the

eastern zone and a third rail

along the 244 km rail track on

Serajganj-Parbatipur broad

gauge route on the western side

to allow conversions between

both the zones of the

Bangladesh Railway system', an

The Railway authorities are

be laid for this.

official said.

But it will take at least two

A 19-km dual gauge rail

the inauguration of the bridge.

The JP legislator questioned

He also noted that there had

relevant sectors.

source development.

BNP legislator said that it

would push up the prices of es-

further sufferings to the poor.

Dr Khan also criticised the

Dr Moveen Khan, BNP legis-

unproductive sectors.

sent fiscal.

by the government.

Criticising the huge bud-

The national airline, having

But the details are yet to be worked out. On the drawing boards are also further restructuring and induction of more

He said the airline is currently negotiating to procure a DC-10-30 aircraft to add to its fleet of four DC-10-30's.

"negotiations are underway to procure a Fokker 28-4000 turbo jet to bolster the domestic and regional service, currently served by two F-28's and two Advance Turboprop planes,'

The turboprops procured from British Aerospace (BA) in 1988 are up for sale. The airline is negotiating with prospective

ing an alliance with the Korean Airlines to haul dry cargo since August last year, Biman is focusing on harnessing a partner to provide it a major lift into the Asian sky, he said.

Airlines saw a boost in cargo carrying. We carried 588 tonnes while the Korean Air lifted the same quantity since August 1997. Korean Air has now deployed a Boeing 747 to haul readymade garments to United States via Bangkok and Seoul," Islam said.

Negotiations are going on with the Uzbekistan Airlines to build a similar alliance to ferry cargo, he added.

JS budget discussion

BNP will return to power:

The anti-government movement will be based on national issues, BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday told a group of students and asked them to mobilise support of the

There is no doubt that BNP will return to power again. People are with us as we are in the movement to realise their demand," she said while speaking to the newly-elected JCD leaders of Mirzapur and Nagarpur college student unions who came to her official residence to exchange views with the party chief.

Advocating for peaceful movement, Begum Zia said, "Since the people are with us. you need not shed your blood. Our programme is people-ori-ented and peaceful."

Leaders of JCD, Juba Dal and BNP of those thanas were also

the government has failed in every sector. She also referred to the near collapse of law and order, extortion by ruling party musclemen, and inadequate supply of electricity, water and

power illegally'

Illegal power connections to hundreds of slum areas in Dhaka city are causing a loss of 70mw of electricity, reports

without portfolio, disclosed this in Parliament yesterday while giving a written reply to Hajee Mohammad Selim (AL). There are more than 3000

small and big slum areas in Dhaka city. "But none of them have legal power connections." Khan added: The drive is on

to disconnect illegal power lines. Attempts are also being taken to give the slum dwellers power connections through committees being formed with local elite and NGOs.

City BNP

From Page 1

against the city mayor.

dustbin while life in the city has become insecure due to widespread terrorism.

JS session

sumed. Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina was not in the House on

Yesterday's sitting lasted

Opposition. The live broadcast was stopped before passage of

sion on the proposed budget for 1998-99 the BNP lawmakers pointed out, the government's "failures" in various sectors.

three-member BNP delegation met Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury at his chamber to discuss with him various issues relating to parliament.

The delegation comprised Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof Badruddoza Choudhury, Chief Whip of the Opposition Khandakar Delwar Hossain and BNP Vice Chairman M K

sion from 1 pm, the BNP leaders requested the Speaker to prolong the budget session to enable the party lawmakers to speak extensively. In this regard, they suggested that Article 92 of the Constitution could be applied to opt for passage of the budget partially before the June

But the Speaker did not consider the opposition proposal as feasible and thought the government side might not accept it, the Opposition Chief Whip told a group of reporters at his Sangsad chamber in the afternoon. The Speaker, however, assured them of consulting the

On allocation of time for the BNP MPs to discuss the proposed budget, the Speaker informed them that until Wednesday, the House witnessed more than four hours of discussion. During the rest of the planned 40-hour discussion, the government and the opposition would be given equal

meeting included implementation of BNP's four-point agreement signed with the government, recasting some of the parliamentary committees. rescheduling the newly-introduced half-an-hour "unscheduled debate" on every working day and the alleged harassment of the Opposition leader's security personnel.



Belgian captain Enzo Scifo (left) holds off the challenge of South Korea's Lee Min-sung during the soccer World Cup Group E match between Belgium and South Korea at the Parc des Princes in Paris yesterday.

enced Belgians - fielding a

over 30 - were quick to take ad-

Seo Jung-won ran down a long

pass, but although completely

unmarked, fumbled the shot

bounding off his shin and

shooting past the post.

keeper Kim Byung-ji.

from some 12 meters, the ball

In the 51st minute, Nilis hit

team whose average age was

In the 22nd minute, forward

Belgium out of race tactical naivete that the experi-From Page 1

vantage of

changed

Mexico to advance into the second round. The Dutch only needed a draw to advance from Group E. Belgium looked to be in good

shape early, taking a lead shortly after kickoff, while the Dutch led Mexico 2-0 in the second half.

A header from Gordan Vidovic was pushed off the line in the seventh minute by a South Korean defender, but Luc Nilis surged into the area to volley in the much-needed opener past diving goalkeeper Kim Byung-

But Belgium's hopes were deflated with 19 minutes remaining, when Ha lofted a free kick for from the left and You stretched to touch the ball with his right foot, beating several diving Belgian defenders on the far side of the goal box.

from the tournament, the South Koreans appeared determined to win their first match in five World Cup appearances - their last opportunity before cohosting the next World Cup with Japan in 2002.

South Korean coach Kim Pyung-Soek — promoted after Cha Bum-kin was fired following the team's dismal 5-0 loss to underside of the roof covering the Netherlands — made few changes to Cha's starting lineup against the Dutch.

They demonstrated tight defending and an ability to shoot from distance, but also bouts of

Tk 26.30cr BMRE project to upgrade FDC being implemented school in CHT

by stewards.

project, in-A BMRE volving Tk 26.30 crore, is being implemented to upgrade the Film Development Corporation (FDC), reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Ministry held at the Jativa Sangsad with its chairman Abul Kalam Azad in the chair yesterday. The meeting discussed the

overall activities of FDC, including its organisational framework, manpower, formation process of its governing body, budget allocation, maintenance of machinery and progress of the ongoing BMRE

Rush at BJMB continues

Thousands of people continued to swarm across the Bangabandhu Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge yesterday, according to officials posted at the site.

The 4.8-km long bridge was opened for traffic on Tuesday last following its inauguration by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"People are walking along the bridge and the rail track, said an official, noting that it has generated tremendous curiosity and enthusiasm among people, particularly those living in the adjacent villages.

vandalism," another official said. "Some telephone sets from the emergency telephone booths installed on the bridge have already been removed."

very slowly over the bridge," the official said. "Possibility of any mishap cannot be ruled out if the rush of people remains un-

changed. "We have informed the Ja-

official added. while the 1360 crossed from the eastern side during the 24-hour

The vehicles included buses

Clinton From Page 1

On Friday, Clinton goes to the village of Xia He for what is bille as a roundtable discussion with ordinary Chinese citizens about their lives in a changing society

Then to Beijing on Saturday, opening with the event that has stirred the greatest controversy at home: a formal welcoming in Tiananmen Square, scene of the democracy demonstrations bloodily repressed by Chinese troops in June 1989.

Clinton defends his decision to go to that symbolic site as protocol, not substance, and said he will speak America's piece for human rights and freedom. But not there; no speeches at Tiananmen.

Prime Minister mentioned the -AP/UNB photo

By Staff Correspondent

"They are also indulging in

"The vehicles are moving

muna Multipurpose Bridge Authority about the problem and

also suggested them to distribute leaflets and make announcements requesting people not to walk over the bridge," the A total of 1450 vehicles crossed from the westernside

period ending at 6:00 am on Wednesday, said JMBA sources.

trucks, microbuses, cars and motorcycles.

thana in the city yesterday. A gang of about four muggers waylaid the auto-rickshaw in which Khandakar Imam Hossain was travelling at the Green Road crossing at about 7 am. Dhanmondi thana police said

Imam was going to Gabtali residence.

briefcase, containing the money and fled away.

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jun 25: A businessman was robbed of Tk one lakh today by a group of after he withdrew the money

Foyaz Ali came under attack by the muggers at 11:45 am today. A case was filed with Kotwali thana in this regard, but none was arrested so far.

Garments worker From Page 1 and Babul were gossiping at

Textile Math at Tejgaon at about 11 pm Wednesday. At one stage, they had an al-

tercation and Babul attacked Chameli with a knife and stabbed her several times. She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where she succumbed to her injuries soon after admission, police added.

DMCH morgue for autopsy Momena, sister of the victim, field a murder case with Tejgaon thana in connection with the killing.

Vice President tells PM

ADB keen to extend help in energy sector

Visiting Asian Development Bank Vice President Bong-Fuh Lee has praised the government initiative for progress and trend of development in last two years, reports UNB. "We will conduct some more

he said during a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Ganabhaban official residence yesterday.

Lee apprised the Prime Minister of the ADB activities in

feasibility studies in the coun-

try for development projects,"

Bangladesh. A major development partner of Bangladesh, ADB was a main contributor to fund for

the Bangabandhu Bridge. The ADB Vice President assured best possible assistance in Bangladesh's development initiatives.

He spoke about reforms in some sectors of Bangladesh like railways and showed ADB's interest for extending assistance

in the energy sector. During the meeting, the

at the meeting.

Budget 'regressive' From Page 1 Dwelling on giving a chance Bakht of the BIDS, Tanweer to black money holders to make

Akram, journalist Zaglul A Chowdhury and Aftab-ul-Islam, President of Bangladesh Computer Samity took part in the discussion. Saifur, in his first public appearance after the budget was placed before the parliament on

June 11, categorically said turning Advance Income Tax (AIT) at source into final tax settlement was a "violation" and a "disruption" of normal tax collection practices. "This (AIT) is a penalty on

the people," he said and added that tax payment could not be a penalty on citizens. He said the government

could not take away peoples' income before knowing whether it was taxable. "This is ridiculous. Its a confiscation of peoples' property.

The former finance minister and now a BNP lawmaker said some of the proposed expenses had been deliberately over projected while some income had

been under projected. The government wants to show that their revenue earnings were duly collected. Saifur

He said if inflation was considered, the budgetary allocation for power, agriculture and social sectors would in fact show a declining trend.

Saifur said, "If we project a 5.60 per cent growth for the 1998-99 period, we have to achieve a real growth of 12 per cent" since the current inflation rate was estimated at seven per

"This shows an ambition of the government but does not say wherefrom the money will

Tk 3 lakh snatched in city

By Staff Correspondent Muggers snatched Tk three lakh from a businessman at Bhutergoli under Dhanmondi

quoting FIR filed by Imam.

from his North Circular Road's The gang forcibly snatched a

Tk one lakh snatched in Ctg

armed terrorists immediately from a bank at Jublee road in the city, police said. Police said the busienssman,

Police arrested Babul the same night and produced him before the CMM's Court yesterday. The body was sent to

payers." Saifur claimed he had protested some of Zia-regimepoliticians' move to make black money white. "I never supported this," he

their money white, he said:

"This will discourage the tax

said, adding Pakistani autocrat Ayub Khan had introduced such window for the black money holders. SM Akram said everyone in the country was expecting a

downsized defence budget after

the signing of the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace accord but the finance minister frustrated the people by proposing increased military expenditure. He said the final settlement

of the AIT expresses the government's aggressive attitude which might cause a lower tax collection. People might not pay more when they would see AIT was

considered as final settlement, Akram said. The ruling party MP, however, said he gave his personal opinion which did not reflect the views of his party or the government.

Hafiz GA Siddiqi said the proposed budget showed that there had been an upward trend in defence and public administration expenditures and a declining trend in social sector

expenditures. Igbal Sobhan Chowdhury congratulated the main Opposition BNP, saying people would feel a relief when BNP would join the Jatiya Sangsad session to help sustain parliamentary system and make it institutionalised.

Sobhan told SM Akram that he (Akram) should have the courage to speak freely about the budget before the House. "You should have courage to tell the truth, your observations (in parliament) could have an impact on the policymakers," he

He said when the people were expecting a dividend after the signing of the CHT peace accord the finance minister came up with an increased defence bud-

documents should have more disclosures on accounts of government expenditures on the ministers and politicians. Mahfuz Anam expressed his concern over the budget because

it did not give the required em-

Prof Abu Ahmed said budget

phasis on development of human resources in the country. "Although education sector has got the highest allocation in the budget, nearly 80 per cent of this amount will go for salaries of the teachers," he said adding that the rest of the money is insignificant for improving the quality of educa-

tion and undertaking research

programmes. Mozaffer Ahmed said there was no linkage between industry and educational institutions, which was vital for industrialisation of the country.

Zaid Bakht termed the budget a very cautious step in the right direction.

Trading floor

From Page 1 He thanked the authorised

representatives of the brokers for their active support and cooperation to run the trading floor smoothly. CSE started floor trading on

October 10, 1995 on an 'ordered outcry auction' basis. As the volume of trading increased it opened its second trading floor in November 1996. At the beginning of this

month CSE started online trad-

ing from Chittagong, Dhaka

and Sylhet simultaneously. At first, 114 securities were traded through the automated trading system. Gradually more

issues were transferred from the trading floor to the automated system. Yesterday was the last of floor trading day and the last deal was done between . ISPI Securities Ltd and Royal Securities and Investment Ltd.

Biman plans alliance

Bangladesh Biman is planten aircraft and 5,838 employ-ees, is up for privatisation folwith major airlines to boost its lowing a government decision to off-load at least 49 per cent of passenger and cargo carrying capacity, Biman sources said.

The sources, however, would - its shares in the stock market. aircraft, Islam said. "The idea is to find out a

Islam said.

Buoyed by its success follow-

"Our alliance with Korean once a week dry cargo, mainly

the inflation, you would see that there has been no enhancement in the allocations." He also questioned the rationale behind the increased allocation for defence "especially after signing the CHT accord and making laws accommodat-

ing the contents of the accord."

JP legislator, found the budget

'a document prepared by the bu-

Golam Farrok Obhi, another

reaucrats who are indifferent towards the sufferings of the Expressing doubt about the success of the reforms in the banking sector, he said: "How can one expect success when the country's biggest bank loan defaulter, Salman Rahman, is in-

cluded in the government dele-

gations visiting foreign coun-

Speaking next, Jamaat-etioned the inflation figure given Islami lawmaker Kazi Shamsur Rahman criticised the proposed budget saying that it lacked for expanding the VAT net, the proper direction to lead the nation on the economic front. He said the budget proposals would sential commodities causing also fail to attain its desired

economic growth.

from JP and one from Jamaat took part in yesterday's discus-Sadek murder: One more

A total of 20 MPs — ten from

the BNP, seven from AL, two

arrested By Staff Correspondent The Detective Branch of police on Wednesday arrested one person in connection with the murder of Sadekur Rahman, a security officer of a garments factory, who was gunned down

by assailants at city's Tejkunipara on June 1. The arrested was identified as Nahid Parvez alias Tutul, 29, police said. Earlier, police arrested two persons, Musa, 33, and Zakir, 30, for their alleged

involvement in the Sadek mur-Police said they arrested the three as suspects in the incident. Police were interrogating the arrested persons.

3 hurt in clash during DU employees' strike

By DU Correspondent

At least three persons, including a policeman were injured in a clash between two rival groups of Dhaka University employees on the campus during a strike called by the Inter-University Employees' Federation (IUEF) yesterday.

Zahurul Haq Hall, Ram of AF Rahman Hall and a police constable Abdul Jalil. The clash erupted at about 11 am when a group of employees led by Bazlur Rahman protested the token strike called by IUEF at the administrative building

of the university.

The injured were identified

as Chunnu, an employee of the

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Khaleda

masses, reports UNB.

The opposition leader said

gas. City slums consume 70mw

Noor Uddin Khan, minister

Rather he amassed crores of taka illegally from various sectors, Khoka alleged and brought some specific charges The BNP leader said that the whole city has turned into a big

From Page 1 ule. She left the House after 25 minutes after the session re-

the day. longer than those on other days in the current session. Bangladesh Betar resumed live broadcast of parliament proceedings yesterday, following continued demand by the

the CHT bills during the last session. Participating in the discus-

Before joining the session, a

Anwar, MP. During the hour-long discus-

30 deadline for passing it. Treasury Bench on the issue. Delwar Hossain said.

time, Delwar quoted the Speaker as saying. Other issues discussed at the

> placent about the poverty programmes here. Binayak Sen, the other author of the paper, said poverty programmes had demonstrated

alleviation.

the crossbar from six meters after chesting a cross in the box and swivelling around defenders Ha and Lee Sang-hun. After the equalizer, the two teams had at least half-a-dozen opportunities to take the lead, but the score remained un-

Brazilian referee Rezende de

World Cup

From Page 1

scrum of two Dutch players and

most dramatic Mexican per-

formance came from a fan

climbed onto the beams on the

the stands. The man then

shimmied more than 30 meters

down a huge pole to the wild

cheers of fellow Mexican sup-

porters. He was escorted away

Until the final minutes, the

one Mexican and into the net.

Freitas handed out yellow cards to Vital Borkelmans, Lee Limsaeng, Lee Min-sung, and Although already eliminated bounced untouched through a

Japanese grant for construction of residential pry

Japan will provide US dollar 156,641 for construction of a residential primary school in the CHT and buying "green umbrellas" for field workers in the health and family planning sector in Bangladesh, reports

Japanese Ambassador to

Bangladesh Yoshikazu Kaneko

signed two grant contracts involving the money under the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects scheme. The contracts were signed with Kyaw Maung of Bangladesh Marma Buddhist Association and Mohammad Shajahan of Bangladesh Centre

for Communication Pro-

From Page 1

it. To make these work effec-

tively, the government should

He said Bangladesh has

failed in all these actions which

has compounded the poverty

situation. Prof Sobhan said al-

though the government's budget

shows high figures for poverty

alleviation programmes, a ma-

jor portion of the budgeted

money is used as delivery cost

of the budget is no measure to

analyse government expendi-

ture. He also said the poor must

participate in the market and

that political empowerment of

the poor is essential for poverty

authors of the key-note paper

presented at the dialogue, said

country, almost twice as faster

than in the Scandinavian coun-

indicators in Bangladesh are

synonymous to that of Bihar in

India, one of the most poverty

stricken areas of the world, and

that there is nothing to be com-

He said many of the poverty

inequality is growing fast in the

Dr Atiur Rahman, one of the

He said the macro allocation

go for capacity building.

of services to the poor.

gramme.

Comprehensive agenda needed good results in the beginning, but as they increased in scale,

> poverty programmes as the first generation effect and said new methods have to be found for the programmes to be taken to Former finance minister

poor economic growths. Muhit said investments in such targeted programmes

Force on Poverty Alleviation, said more resources must be allocated to the efficient poor to improve the poverty situation. "The market rules say resources should go to the efficient ones, but instead we are

Convenor of the National Task

source and information." these have faced some difficul-He termed the difficulties of

the next stage. AMA Muhit said the administration must be decentralised for obtaining results in different sectors. He said the targeted poverty programmes have proved to be effective despite the

should continue, but the style of investment should be changed to eradicate poverty in the shortest possible time. He added that the local governments should be empowered to implement the social investment programmes for optimum re-Dr Sheikh Maqsood Ali,

withdrawing funds from the efficient poor," he said. "The poor

Fazle Hasan Abed, Executive Director of BRAC, said poverty alleviation is not a question of

micro-credit alone, it needs to

be attacked on many fronts like

improving the marketing sys-

must be given the right to re-

tem of rural products and providing them services. Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star, said that politics in Bangladesh has become fundamentally anti-development as all parties give priority to party interest above that of the nation. Hartal politics has devastated the economy.

He said years of military dic-

tatorship had perverted the

process of governance in the

past. The present democratic

torted market system, non-par

ticipation of the poor in gover-

system has so far failed to reverse that process. He stressed the need for local government and genuine devolution of power to that level. Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed, Chairman of ADAB, said a dis-

nance, environmental degrada tion and disasters are creating poverty. He said along with micro-credit programmes, these injustice of the society must be addressed and the poor should be empowered through multifaceted actions.

development priorities and thanked ADB for its continued assistance. Referring to the opening of Bangabandhu Bridge, she said this bridge will help in acceler-ating economic activities in the northern region of the country

and reducing pressure on the capital. The Prime Minister also emphasised the construction of Padma Bridge and Rupsha Bridge and infrastructure development in the southwestern part of the country for building a total communication net-

work. She said the government has taken various development measures as well as micro credit programmes to strengthen the rural economy.

Hasina said her government has also taken steps to build low cost houses for the low income and working class people. ERD secretary Dr A K M Mashiur Rahman was present