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## GSS: Govt order stayed for 10 weeks

By SC Correspondent The High Court yesterday stayed for 10 weeks a govern-ment order to dissolve the governing body of Ganosahajya Sangstha (GSS) temporarily and form a caretaker body.

The Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Fazlul Karim and Justice Md Ali Asgar Khan also asked the Director General, Department of Social Welfare, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare and the Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau to explain why the order should not be declared to have been made without lawful au-

thority and is of no legal effect. The court passed the order upon a writ petition filed by Justice K M Sobhan and F R Mahmud Hasan, Chairman and DG of GSS respectively.

The DG, Department of Social Welfare by an order dated June 15, 1999 temporarily dissolved the governing body on as many as six grounds and formed a caretaker body comprising Md Foijullah, former secretary, as its convenor and Abu Abdullah, DG of BIDS and SM Zafarullah, Director of NGO Affairs Bureau as members.

Barrister Syed Istiaque Ahmed with Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud assisted by Advocate A R Khan and Md Asaduzzaman moved the writ petition, while DAG Obaidur Rahman Mustafa represented the government.

## Rindan Samity chief arrested

By Staff Correspondent The founder of Federal Samabaya Sanchayee and Rindan Samity was arrested in the city on Sunday on charge of misappropriating Tk 40 crore.

Police said that they arrested Badaruddin Chowdhury in the evening after Sabiha, a field officer of the Samity, lodged a case with Mohammadpur thana.

Meanwhile, about 100 women, who claimed themselves as members of the Samity, staged a demonstration on the CMM's Court premises at about 6 pm yesterday when Badaruddin was produced before the court, our court corre-

spondent reports. Metropolitan Magistrate Maksudur Rahman Patwari rejecting a bail petition on behalf of the arrested ordered that Badaruddin be sent to Dhaka Central Jail, court sources

## Transport strike in N-dists from July 1

From Our Correspondent NATORE, June 21: The North Bengal Road Transport Samity (NBRTS) has called an indefinite transport strike from July 1 protesting toll collection at Shingra Bridge in Natore.

The NBRTS leaders, announcing this at a press conference held the Natore Bus-Minibus Owners' Association office in the town on Saturday, said the call for strike would remain unchanged until the toll collection at Shingra Bridge point was stopped.

## Advice

From Page 1 "What a white-skin sahib of the WB has said about our GDP, or what another sahib has written in the Asia Week are immaterial," the state minister said.

"Rely on the domestic data provided by the country's Bureau of Statistics which applies scientific method in gathering the information."

According to the state minister, the government has calculated the GDP on the basis of data provided by the BSB.

Claiming that he has 'successfully prepared a fiveyear plan, without seeking any advice from a single white-skin sahib, the state minister observed: "It is the inferiority complex that leads some people to prefer to the opinions of the foreigners, or whites for that

matter." The minister further claimed that a final calculation in July would definitely reveal that the growth rate in the 1998-1999 financial year is 'higher than 5.2 per cent'.

## Debidwar

From Page 1 Later, at about 8:45 pm, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told the demonstrators that Begum Zia was busy with schedules fixed earlier and would not be able to meet them.

Assuring the crowd that the problem would be resolved, he said that a meeting was already held on Saturday and another is scheduled for today to resolve the issue.

Bhuiyan requested the demonstrators to go back to Debidwar, but many of them said they would wait till Begum Zia leaves her official residence.

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Prime Minister and Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina inaugurating her party's Golden Jubilee celebrations by hoisting the National Flag at Sylhet Stadium yesterday.-PID photo

asked her partymen to remain united and work for the people to keep up their confidence to face any odds ahead, reports

"We'll be able to maintain tempo of progress if the party workers and leaders at grassroots level remain united and able to maintain confidence of the people earned over the years," she told a grand rally at the stadium here.

The assembly was the fifth such at divisional level since the ruling Awami League's Golden Jubilee celebrations kicked off from the divisional city of Chittagong.

Three other grand rallies were held in Khulna, Rajshahi and Barisal marking the founding of Awami League on June 23, 1949 at the Rose Garden in Dhaka.

Making a fervent appeal for strengthening the party at grassroots level, Sheikh Hasina said: "For a political leader people's affection is a valuable asset while a political party needs people's trust."

The divisional headquarters put on a festive look with colourful flags, banners, posters hoisted on both sides of the roads and a good number of ceremonial arches erected on

main thoroughfares. Thousands of people from all walks of life lined up near the meeting venue on the occa-

The day's programme began with Prime Minister Hasina hoisting the national flag and Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman the party

Listing her government's steps taken for the country's development, Sheikh Hasina said they were working hard for fulfilling the commitments given to the people.

## She hoped the proposed bud-Jewellerymen

From Page 1

(fats and various types of cholesterol) of the workers significantly decreased compared to control group," says the re-

Also, the findings showed significant increase in levels of Thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) in the jewellery workers.

TBARS is responsible for lipid per-oxidation that causes damage to cell membrane, the bio-scientists said. And "frequent damage of cell membrane push people into early aging with various health hazards". All of the studied workers had anemia.

Most jewellery workers complained of constipation. weakness, metallic taste in mouth, abdominal pain and so

Clinical tests showed blue lining of the gums in the workers. "Conventional X-ray radiography of the abdomen in few cases with acute abdominal pain showed a faint to fair radio-opaque shadow of fecal matter impregnated with lead salts," the report says.

In Tantibazar, a large section of population is engaged in different workshops for recovery of gold and silver from dust, smelting and alloying, rolling and milling, die-cutting and designing, assembling and soldering and polishing and plating of

jewellery. During this process, lead melts and adsorbs the gold and silver impurities, and the entire working atmosphere is filled with smoke which is laden with

lead and lead oxides. The survey found that they worked 8 to 12 hours a day for the last 10 to 25 years and were reported to have taken no precaution against lead fumes.

### Hasina tells partymen in Sylhet Remain united to face any odds in future SYLHET, June 21: Prime get would relax tax burdens on Minister Sheikh Hasina today the commoners, help protect local industries, prevent smug-

sources. On local issues, the Prime Minister told the gathering that a new Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education would start functioning here from next academic session and SSC and HSC examinations

gling and develop human re-

would be held under it. She said her government took massive programmes for infrastructural development of this division that remained neglected during previous governments. The runway of Sylhet Airport would be expanded to 9,000 feet soon facilitating the landing of more wide-bod-

ied aircraft, she said. The Prime Minister also said that a factory namely Lafarz Cement Factory and another, Shahjalal Fertilizer Factory, are going to be established

here soon. A full-fledged Army brigade would also be stationed in the geographically important divi-sional town, she added.

## 2-day strike at BIT

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 21: the first day of the two-day long strike called by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal was observed peacefully today at Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) Rajshahi.

JCD earlier called the strike demanding release of Shahedur Rahman Suman, vice president of BIT, Rajshahi unit of JCD. Suman was arrested on

April 14 after a clash between JCD and the ruling party backed Bangladesh Chhatra

## Ctg Veterinary College closed sine die

CHITTAGONG, June 21: Chittagong Government Veterinary College was today closed sine die and residential students vacated their dormitories following an order by the au-

thority, reports BSS. The order came after the students of the college confined the principal inside his room for one hour today to press home their six-point demand.

Police, later, rescued the principal and brought the situation under control.

Later, the students staged a sit-in in front of Chittagong Press Club and demanded immediate reopening of the college and hostel.

By Nazmul Ashraf

This was what JP lawmaker NK Alam Choudhury told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday to describe how the two big parties treat the party of former military dictator HM Ershad.

"AL and BNP consider themthe House.

Unlike other BNP lawmak-

"I don't blame the finance minister for claiming a fictitious growth rate. He finds growth among the AL men all around him and that must have influenced the minister. So much has been AL's growth that the 74-year-old foreign minister whom we call Samad Chacha has married once again and gone to Germany for honeymoon," Hossain remarked.

See page 11 col 7

## Changes in US visa issuing procedures

The US embassy in Dhaka yesterday changed its non-immigrant visa handling proce-

every applicant, who appears at the US Embassy, will either be interviewed on that day or be given a specific interview date.

sued indicating the interview date," a USIS press release said. The press release cautioned that the travellers should not wait until the last minute to ob-

plan their travel accordingly. emergency, visa applicants are 88-73-44 including the name, date of birth, profession, and passport number of all travellers, the nature of emergency, the reason for and the schedule of your travel, and provide a

way." the release added.

# JS tidbits

Jatiya Party has proved itself essential to both Awami League and BNP in their power game. But the two find JP an autocratic party as soon as their game is over. Autocrats are essential to them to climb to power.

selves as factors in today's politics. In fact, the real factor is JP which has found its place between the two," Choudhury told

ers, Mosharraf Hossain did not blame finance minister SAMS Kibria for the controversial 5.2 per cent GDP growth rate in

BNP MP Alamgir Haidar Khan suggested that mirror be

dures, reports BSS.

According to the new system, "Passports, application forms and fee receipts will be collected and a token will be is-

tain visas. "All applications should allow at least four weeks for their visa interview and

It said in the event of an advised to send a short fax to contact fax or phone number.

"The Consulate will not accept phone calls asking for expedited service or inquiring about the status of your fax. Applicants not contacted should pursue their visa in the normal

# can double frozen food export By Staff Correspondent Microbiological quality con-trol of processed food and fish

Microbiological quality control

products can increase the country's export potential to a new

This view was expressed by discussants at a workshop in the city yesterday. Earnings from frozen food export alone can be doubled from Tk. 2000 crore a year now if microbiological quality is guaranteed, they

The workshop on "Interac-tion Between Microbiologists and Food-Fish Processing Industries" was jointly or-ganised by the Bangladesh So-ciety of Microbiologists (BSM) and the Ministry of Science and rechnology. The day-long workshop,

held at the auditorium of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), was participated by microbiologists, experts, government officials and representatives from industries. Microorganisms can con-

taminate food, fish and pharmaceutical products and so there has been a new concern worldwide about microbiological quality control. Bangladesh is lagging behind in this regard,

A debate on the controver-

sial economic growth rate in

the current fiscal year domi-

nated the general discussion on

the proposed national budget

for 1999-2000 in Jatiya

up with certain allegations of

financial corruption of the gov-

ernment. The Treasury Bench,

however, denied the allega-

who took part in the general

discussion on the proposed bud-

get yesterday, questioned the

government claim that the rate

of the economic growth in fiscal

1998-1999 is 5.2 per cent. While

rejecting this growth figure, the

opposition lawmakers referred

to the observations by various

regional and international or-

ganisations including the

bers, on the other hand, not

only tried to defend the gov-

ernment, they rather went to

the extent of claiming that GDP

growth would stand at more

than 5.2 per cent when final es-

timates are made in July. Be-

sides, the ruling party legisla-

tors found the opposition mem-

bers, who referred to the obser-

vations by foreigners, to be 'vic-

tims of inferiority complex'

and advised them to 'rely on

BNP said the government's eco-

nomic survey showed clearly

that GDP growth had come

down in all but one sector. Be-

sides, he recalled, the finance

minister had told the Paris

Consortium Meeting only a few

weeks before placing of the bud-

get on June 10 that the rate of

growth was 4.4 per cent. "What.

has happened that the GDP has

gone up to 5.2 per cent in a few

Mosharraf Hossain, told the

House that the Asian Week in

its June 18 issue said that the

rate of GDP growth in

Bangladesh in the current fiscal

young BNP lawmaker from

Cox's Bazar - also rejected the

government figure. In this re-

gard, he quoted the WB Resident

Chief who reportedly found the

government claim of 5.2 per

cent GDP growth miraculous.

"Such a baseless claim of the

government of Sheikh Hasina

would bring the nation an im-

age of liars. It reminds us that

the government of her father

Sheikh Mujubur Rahman had

brought us the image of a nation

Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir who

State Minister for Planning

Salahuddin Ahmed - a

Another BNP legislator,

weeks time?" he asked.

is year is 4.4 per cent.

Akhtar Hamid Siddiky of

domestic data'

The Treasury Bench mem-

World Bank and Asia Week.

Most of the opposition MPs

Besides, the Opposition came

Sangsad yesterday.

## Workshop in city told

Though the workshop was meant for interaction, participation from food processing industries was very poor. Many of the invitees did not turn up. showing how microbiological aspects were being neglected in the country.

A representative from an icecream factory who spoke at the workshop admitted the neg-

Science and Technology Secretary Fazlur Rahman spoke at the inaugural session as chief guest while The Daily Star editor Mahfuz Anam addressed the concluding session as guest of honour. With BSM President Dr

Naiyum Chowdhury in the chair, the workshop was addressed by, among others, Abdul Matin, DG, Fisheries Department, Dr M Moshiuzzaman, Chairman, BCSIR, Dr Syed Fazle Rabbi, a former director of BCSIR, Dr Sirajul Islam Khan, Dean, Faculty of Biological Science, Dhaka University and GK Joardar, a

Controversial economic growth

rate dominates JS debate

By Staff Correspondent

reportedly had a vital role in

'getting' the revised figure of 5.2

per cent strongly defended it.

Claiming that the government

had applied 'standard scientific

method in calculating the GDP,

the he said, "We were rather

conservative in calculating

GDP in the construction sector.

while we just ignored a couple of

power plants which will go into

operation by the end of June. A

final calculation in July would

definitely reveal that the figure

Replying to the opposition

members who referred to the

observations made by foreign-

ers, the state minister said:

What a white-skin sahib has

said about our GDP or what an-

other sahib has written in the

Asia Week are immaterial." He

advised the Opposition to rely

a five-year plan, without seek-

ing any advice from a single

white-skin sahibs. It is an infe-

riority complex that leads some

to prefer the opinions of the

troversial role he had played by

addressing anti-government

political rallies when he was a

public servant in early 1996. "I

hope, the government officials

would again take part in such

political activities, in case any

criminal makes attempt to

cling to state power without

having people's mandate in fu-

Bench member, Farook Khan

strongly criticised the Opposi-

tion for contesting the govern-

ment figure. "It appears from

their criticism that the opposi-

tion members do not know how

to calculate GDP", he said,

adding that the figure would go

hailed the government for en-

suring an eight per cent en-

hanced allocation for the

armed forces and said the allo-

cation should be higher in fu-

ture to further strengthen the

there was any corruption be-

hind the government decision

of purchasing Indian trucks for

the army or MIG-29 from Rus-

Strike called off

Sramik Karmachari Kar-

makarta Oikya Parishad

(SKKOP) of Power Development

Board (PDB) yesterday called off

its today's 24-hour token strike.

The strike was postponed

after a fruitful meeting between

leaders of the parishad and PDB

He denied the allegation that

The ruling party legislator

up in July.

reports BSS.

Earlier, another Treasury

Khan also defended the con-

"I have successfully prepared

on the domestic data.

is higher than 5.2 per cent."

renowned microbiologist. Dr M Mozammel Hoq of Dhaka University presented a key-note paper.

The workshop adopted some recommendations. These include participatory research involving academicians, re-search organizations and fish processing industries to assess quality control requirement. reduction of communication gap between microbiologists and processing units, identification of reference laboratories

for quality control. The experts also called for an arrangement for attachment of microbiology students in universities with industries. In this regard, they also suggested initiating meaningful dialogue with fish processing industries, marine food exporters association, frozen food exporters association, and other similar organizations.

The participants also decided to form a grand alliance of scientists and civil society leaders to fight lead poisoning. a major environmental threat in the country now. They hoped that this would influence the policy planners to take immediate steps to prevent environmental pollution.

Earlier, Khairul Anam of

BNP alleged that those con-

cerned had made money by pur-

chasing two F-20 fighter planes

from Indonesia, two frigates

from South Korea, Trucks from

India and eight MIG-29 from

Russia. He also demanded for-

mation of a parliamentary

committee to probe the allega-

Treasury and the Opposition

benches took part in the debate.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid

and Rahamat Ali, ruling party

MP and a member of the panel

of chairmen, chaired yester-

session at 2:15 pm for resump-

tion at 9:30 this morning.

Rahmat Ali adjourned the

day's sitting.

A total of 22 MPs from the

# Walkout

From Page 1 wanted to speak.

Even the chair did not find it necessary to ask Hasnat on which rule he wanted to speak, the opposition chief whip said, and referred to an agreement at the Business Advisory Committee that rule 274 would not be applicable during the budget discussion. But the chair has violated

that agreement, he noted with

"This is only to make the Parliament ineffective, this way parliament cannot be effective," said the Opposition Chief Whip. He cautioned that if the chair runs the House in such a manner, it would be difficult for them to attend the session.

He also requested the chair to allow the BNP members to speak under Rule 274.

The Deputy Speaker said that it was not possible to give floor to others as he had already given the floor to Delwar, but assured them that he would examine any unparliamentary words in Hasnat's statement.

Earlier, Hasnat in his statement said he was compelled to take the floor only to reply to the "slanderous" comment made against him by BNP member Mujibur Rahman Sar-

While defending himself, the Chief Whip narrated how the BNP member had created a reign of terror in Barisal killing and maiming people through armed terrorism from 1973 and embezzled funds of different organisations.

He said: "Sarwar was so cruel that he did not even feel any compunction to kill his own uncle in 1973, which was the beginning of his terrorism. The Chief Whip recalled that

Rakkhi Bahini once saved Sarwar from mass beating in Barisal in 1974. Although a good number of criminal cases were filed against him, Sarwar has been continuing his terrorism till today, he alleged. Hasnat claimed that he him-

self helped Sarwar with the help of SP Mahbub in 1974. In support of his allegation, Hasnat produced copies of cases, paper cuttings and pho-

tographs, and demanded a parliamentary inquiry by BNP leaders Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury and Saifur Rahman into these allegations. He also requested the Home

Minister to revive the cases against Sarwar, which were "withdrawn during the BNP's

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শুসুমাতা শুক্রবার সাপ্তাহিক ছুটি

# TOOT Mandatory PSI

From Page 1 should be conducted by private companies," he said. Most of the businessmen this correspondent talked to

were confused about the implementation process. The confusion arose as the Finance minister in his budget speech did not clarify the implementation process and mention on which items it will be

mandatory, they said. Finance Minister Shah S M S Kibria proposed that the gov-ernment would employ the PSI company and service charge would be realised at a maximum of one per cent of the total

value of the imported goods.
"We are not clear whether PSI system will be imposed on import of agricultural machinery and spare parts," said Kamal Uddin General Secretary of Bangladesh Agricultural Machinery Merchants Associa-

"It is not clear to us that

whether the existing tariff sys-

tem will continue or be with-

drawn after introduction of

compulsory PSI," said another

importer at Motifheel.

The businessmen opposed the proposal that PSI companies would be engaged by the government. It should be left with the importers, they said.

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) President M H Rahman said the PSI charge should be fixed through an understanding between the importer and the PSI company, not by the government.

system? he wondered.

cials can be substantially reduced through this system," Rahman said.

of beggars."

"Why should I give one per cent service charge to the government for implementing PSI

He is in favour of introducing compulsory PSI system because assessment of duties will be "transparent". He however does not think that it would affect small importers and favour big companies. "Time for clearance of im-

ported goods and harassment of

importers by the customs offi-

There should be a list of government approved PSI agencies and the importer should be free to nominate any of those, he suggested.

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