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# The Daily Star

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## Share scam case Proceedings against 2 directors of 2 firms quashed

By M Shamsur Rahman

The High Court yesterday quashed the proceedings against two directors of two securities firms accused of manipulating the share market in 1996.

Managing Director of SES Company Runa Alam and MKM Mohiuddin of First Capital Securities Ltd were acquitted by a Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani and Md Latifur Rahman.

In another judgement, the same Bench transferred five other share scam cases to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Sessions Judge from the Court of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge.

The Bench also directed fresh hearing on charge framing in the five cases in the Chief Metro Court "as the court (Third Metro Court) acted mechanically without applying judicial mind".

Thousands of small investors had lost their life's savings after the share market nose-dived to unexpected lows after hitting unreasonable highs.

After widespread allegations of market manipulation, the capital market watchdog - Securities and Exchange Commission - launched an inquiry, which led to filing of 15 cases accusing 42 directors of different publicly traded companies.

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## Khaleda tells partymen to prepare for next polls

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon her partymen to prepare for the next election and foil the ruling party's "conspiracy," reports UNB.

Awami League that came to power through "conspiracy and vote rigging is again plotting the same course in the next election," she said.

Begum Zia was addressing the leaders and workers of Jamalpur district BNP, led by its convenor Sirajul Haq, when they met with her at 29 Minto Road yesterday evening.

The BNP chairperson asked the party activists to strengthen the organisation at grassroots level sinking all differences.

"If the party is not strengthened at grassroots level Awami League will again snatch the victory of BNP in the next polls," she cautioned them.

"More shouting and slogans will be of no use, what is needed is the united effort for mobilising public support," Begum Zia said.

She alleged that Awami League amassed a huge fortune during its 3-year rule to utilise in the next election.

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### Prayer Timings

June 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:20	4:25
Johr	12:50	1:25
Asr	4:50	5:00
Maghrib	7:00	7:05
Esha	7:55	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Hasina tells AL golden jubilee function in city

# Gain more and more people's confidence to end poverty



Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina inaugurating her party's three-day golden jubilee celebrations by releasing balloons at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday.

Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

The three-day ceremony marking 50 years of Bangladesh Awami League began in the city yesterday with participation and congratulatory messages from other political parties, mostly from Asia.

At least 20 political leaders from eight countries attended the grand opening at the Paltan Maidan. They include former prime minister IK Gujral of India and Lokendra Bahadur Chaudhary of Nepal. Ministers and MPs from Britain, Australia, China, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan also attended the ceremony.

Besides, messages of felicitation also came from the presidents of Russia, China and Palestine, the King of Bhutan and former Nepalese premier Girija Prasad Koirala.

Prime Minister and AL supremo Sheikh Hasina, who led the party back to power after an 18-year struggle, advised her followers to continue their battle for earning people's confidence.

"To reach our ultimate goal of building a poverty-free Bangladesh, we must strengthen our party and to close ranks. You must gain confidence of the people in larger numbers," said a confident Hasina.

The prime minister also stressed peace and stability for growth in South Asia and said the regional and sub-regional groupings could play very important role in uniting the countries of the region.

Hasina also dealt at length on the glorious 50-year-history of her party which she said had always been devoted to the cause of the people.

Politicians from other countries also spoke about the glorious history of the 50-year-old party and wished its continued success. Besides, the foreign guests, the AL Golden Jubilee crests were also given to Hasina and Sheikh Abdul Aziz, the only surviving founding mem-

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## CPD dialogue on economy & budget told

# Diversify exports to raise earning

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a dialogue in the city yesterday expressed concern over the slow growth in export earning and emphasised diversification of exports for increasing the earning.

Export earning grew by only 1.07 per cent during the first nine months of the current fiscal year compared to that in the corresponding period of previous year. Except a few commodities including garments, export of major items like raw jute, tea and frozen food showed a sharp decline, they noted.

Unless constructive mea-

sures are taken, they warned, the situation would deteriorate further due to an economic recession throughout the world.

The dialogue on "The State of the Bangladesh Economy and Budget Responses '99" was organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue and held at Sheraton Hotel.

The speakers criticised imposition of supplementary duty on various items in the proposed national budget saying that this would raise the prices.

The discussants included former finance minister M Sai-

fur Rahman, former minister M K Anwar, former deputy prime minister Jamaluddin Ahmed, former adviser in the caretaker government Monjur Elahi, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury MP, M Morshed Khan MP, Finance Secretary Akbar Ali Khan, Industries Secretary Ziauddin Haq, Sanjiv H Chowdhury, leading industrialist Latifur Rahman, Hossain Zillur Rahman and Binayek Sen of BIDS, President of Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce A K M Shamsuddin, Prof.

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## No discord but project delayed

By Sharier Khan

### Meghnaghat plant

Sources said, the various components of the project including the Implementation Agreement, Power Purchase Agreement and Gas Supply Agreement had been finalised by AES and the relevant government agencies. These agreements were also cleared by the Law Ministry.

The only other agreement that has not been cleared is the Land Lease Agreement (LLA). Sources informed The Daily Star that the LLA was signed by

both AES and PDB some one month ago. But it was not sent to the Law Ministry for vetting.

"There is no disagreement between them (AES) and PDB now," said an official "But before signing the final agreement, PDB wants to make sure that it is prepared to fulfil its own obligations in the project," he said explaining the reasons for delay.

Another source pointed out that though PDB had finalised the Meghnaghat project back in early '97, it was actually not prepared to provide

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## Huge quantity of toxic poultry feed already in market

By Morshed Ali Khan

### Experts fear

A huge quantity of poultry feed component (protein concentrate) imported from different European countries might be contaminated with cancer causing dioxin, according to veterinary doctors, scientists and officials of the Poultry Industries Association.

They said about 20 firms import up to one lakh tons of poultry feed or its components annually from Belgium, the Netherlands and France. Once the chickens are fed with the contaminated food, the dioxin settles in the fat tissues of the bird. Consumers of this chicken is exposed to cancer and Ache, a disease that causes swelling of skin.

The reason why animal feed might be contaminated in Europe is, the feeds, especially animal protein concentrate, are

produced from animal blood and residue. If the animal itself has been exposed to dioxin then its residues would contain dioxin and if another animal consumes that feed, its meat is very much likely to be contaminated, explained Manzur Murshid Khan, a veterinary doctor and joint secretary of the Poultry Industries Association.

Dr M A Malek, Principal Scientific Officer of Agrochemical Residue Research and Analysis Department of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) said dioxin is a waste product which is produced in the process of manufacturing herbicide. The herbicide or weed-killer has

been widely used in European countries and the animals were probably contaminated through the herbs they consumed. There may be other sources of dioxin contamination in the animal fat which is widely used for manufacturing of animal feed. Humans could be exposed to hazard by consuming this non bio-degradable dioxin through poultry meat.

"Herbicide first appeared in the market in the early seventies which contains a permissible level of dioxin below 0.01 mg per kilogram," Dr Malek said.

"Dioxin is less degradable and it is also bio-magnifiable, that means once it is in the environment it can magnify itself," Dr Malek said. He also said that it was highly probable

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## 4 children rescued, 4 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Police yesterday rescued four children from a house at Bashiruddin Road in the city's Kalabagan area and arrested four people for their alleged involvement in abducting them.

One of the four was identified as Ramzan, 4, son of Harunur Rashid of Matuail under Demra thana. Three others aged two to three months could not be identified.

Three of the arrested are Bacchu alias Taslim, 35, his wife Shahnaz Parveen, 35, and Babul, 32.

Earlier a woman, Shanu Begum, 33, was arrested from Srinagar under Munshiganj district Tuesday on charge of kidnapping the four-year-old Ramzan from Matuail under Demra thana on May 4. Police said the rescue operation was conducted following her confessional statement.

Shanu Begum went into hiding after Ramzan's father Harunur Rashid suspected her of abducting his son. He put pressure on Shanu to return his son, police said.

Later, Rashid came to know that Shanu went to Srinagar. He then rushed to Srinagar and met her there. Harunur asked Shanu to return his son, but she refused. Then he took up the matter with the local UP chairman. Who advised him to contact Srinagar police.

Rashid immediately came back to Dhaka and lodged a case with Demra police on Tuesday.

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## 5 terrorists held with arms in Ctg

From Our Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, June 23: Police arrested five terrorists and recovered arms from their possession in separate raids here today.

Doublemooing thana police in two separate pre-dawn raids arrested Md Sirajuddinola Mona from Nasirabad and Mahmood Hossain Minar from Sholashahar areas. Four LGs and one rifle were also recovered from their possession.

Detective police arrested Abdul Khaleq Patwary, 52, from Sher Shah Colony under Panchlaish thana this afternoon. Khaleq is one the listed terrorists, police said.

Chandgaon thana police arrested one notorious terrorist Abu Mia, 30, from Raja Khali area in the early morning. Abu Mia is an accused in eight criminal cases.

In another raid, Paharoli thana police arrested Azimul Islam Azim, 27, from Halishahar B Block area.

## Flood, inclement weather in Ctg Road links snapped, ship movement halted

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 23: Incessant rains have worsened flood situation in the low-lying areas of Chittagong district today.

In the port city water-logging gripped all low-lying areas due to downpour.

Traffic movement on Chittagong-Rangamati, Chittagong-Khagrachari and Chittagong-Nasirabad remained suspended from this morning as flood waters inundated the roads at several points, police and local sources said.

In Fatikchhari thana, a large number of kutchha houses were damaged by flood water after the embankment of Durung Canal collapsed, police said.

Roads and culverts were damaged by flood water in Raizan, Rangunia, Fatikchhari, Satkania, Anwara, Mirer-

sharai and Boalkhali thana areas.

Meanwhile, torrential rains accompanied by strong wind today forced suspension of ship movement at Chittagong port channel while cargo handling activities came to a total halt, port sources said.

A total of 14 cargo vessels anchored at Chittagong port jetty remained stranded due to suspension of loading and unloading, port sources said, adding that the delivery of cargo to and from port was also affected due to incessant rain today.

The Meteorological Office said it recorded 195 mm rainfall in the past 33 hours till 6 pm today. Besides, the Met Office advised to hoist Cautionary Signal No 3 for Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla due to

squally weather.

UNB adds: In Cox's Bazar, onrush of hill waters amid torrential rain inundated vast low-lying areas of the district.

Reports from villages of the coastal district said some 40,000 people were marooned and another 5,000 took shelter in the flood centers.

About 500 people who lost their houses in the floods put up barricade on the Cox's Bazar-Chittagong road, disrupting traffic for five hours.

Witnesses said the homeless people also damaged a number of vehicles.

At 11 am, local officials and public representatives brought the situation under control and sent them to the nearby shelters.

Direct road communications See Page 12 Col 6

## Subordinate courts Govt granted leave to appeal against HC judgement

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday granted the government leave to appeal against the High Court's judgement declaring that by constitutional mandate the subordinate courts have already been separated and made independent and brought under the High Court Division fully, finally and conclusively.

The Appellate Division passed the order upon a government civil petition for leave to appeal and by the order the government has been allowed to prefer an appeal against HC judgement.

A division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Mozammel Hoque and Justice Md Hasan Aman on May 7, 1997 passed the judgement on a writ petition filed by 441 judges of different civil courts from Assistant Judges up to District and Sessions Judges.

In the writ petition the vices of inclusion of judicial service in the name of BCS (Judicial) by the BCS (Reorganisation) Order, See Page 12 Col 5

## Launch dacoity in Padma: 10 arrested

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 23: Ten dacoits were arrested at Louhajang following a daring dacoity on a Bholia-bound launch MV Bakhtiar Khan on the river Padma, near Mohanganj, Munshiganj at about 9:30 last night. The boat was carrying about 400 passengers.

About 25 dacoits boarded the launch at 7:30 pm from Sadarghat, Dhaka in disguise of passengers hiring a cabin, said Abul Bashar, inspector of the launch.

After about two hours they attacked Serang of the launch Abu Siddique and took its control. They ransacked the boat and took away cash and other valuables worth about Tk 10 lakh. They also snatched five rifles and 100 bullets from the on-duty Ansars. They beat up 20 passengers, including a police constable of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Mohammad Ismail Hossain.

The dacoits fled the scene by an engine boat but were later intercepted by a mobile police team in Louhajang. The police managed to nab 10 culprits and recover five rifles and 20 bullets. They were sent to custody.

At 7 am, when the launch reached Bholia, angry passengers attacked the launch alleging involvement of the crew in the incident.



Two of the four alleged traffickers with three infants rescued by police from a house in the city's Kalabagan area yesterday.

Star photo



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