

**BUY NOW... PAY LATER**

**Whirlpool**  
HOME APPLIANCES  
USA

Gas Cooker

Transcom Electronics Limited  
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

# The Daily Star

**TOSHIBA AC**  
MADE IN JAPAN  
The Perfect Combination of Style and Performance  
**RANGS GROUP**

VOL. X NO. 145 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JUNE 14, 2000

3rd Millennium

JAISTHA 31, 1407 BS

RABIUL AWAL 11, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

## Hearing on case of Ershad's JS membership begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission begins hearing on the case of the parliamentary membership of Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad at 11:00 am today. The full bench of the three-member commission will hear the case.

The case was referred to the Commission after a JP faction led by Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Anju contested Ershad's membership. The faction demanded that Ershad's seat in parliament be vacated on the ground that he has violated the constitutional provision that bars a member to abstain from attending parliament proceedings against the decision of the political party he was nominated by in the elections.

The faction argued that it was the JP led by Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Anwar Hossain Monju that nominated Ershad as a candidate in the parliamentary election held in June 1996, while he had been abstaining from the parliament sessions against the decision of the party.

However, the full bench of the three-member EC would hear the opposing sides before passing the judgement on the contentious issue.

Earlier, Monju led JP made an appeal to the Chief Election Commissioner to exclude one of his colleagues in the Commission. Moshtaque Ahmed Chowdhury, from the bench, on apprehension that he was biased for Ershad.

But the CEC rejected the appeal as he found the apprehension baseless.

## Kamal Majumder not cooperating, alleges DB

By Staff Correspondent

Ruling party MP Kamal Ahmed Majumder was not cooperating with police in investigating the murder case in which his son is one of the accused, said Detective Branch of police yesterday.

The DB men went to the residence of the MP twice yesterday and did not find him or his wife, officials said.

Majumder, father of Jewel, was interrogated by the DB for four hours on Sunday regarding the whereabouts of his son. He is scheduled to be interrogated further today, police said.

Police interrogated the MP soon after Home Minister issued directives to put pressure on the guardians of the accused in Shipu murder case to secure arrest of the culprits.

Haji Ahmed, father of Shafiq, another accused in the same case, however, was interrogated yesterday, police added.

Father of another accused, an official of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, however, is yet to be interrogated, police said without giving any detail.

See page 11 col 4

## Inside Today

### Article

## Death of Lion of Damascus: Its Possible Implications

by Harun ur Rasid

Page 4

### Focus

## China and WTO: The 'door-man' eases the passage

Page 5

### Business

## Amendment to Insurance ACT soon, says Jalil

## Oil prices hit 3-month high

DSE, CSE price quotations  
Pages 6, 7 & 8

June	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
14		6-47pm
15	5-11 am	

### Prayer Timings

June 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:15	4:45
Zohr	1:00	1:30
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:50	6:55
Esha	8:15	8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Historic summit of two Kims

SEOUL, June 13: The leaders of South Korea and North Korea greeted each other for the first time today, clapping, chatting and holding hands during a limousine ride into the North's capital in a step toward ending the Cold War on the divided Korean Peninsula, reports AP.

Arriving for a historic three-day summit, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung's jet landed at an airport on the outskirts of Pyongyang. His counterpart, Kim Jong Il, greeted him along with a military brass band, goose-stepping soldiers with fixed bayonets and women dressed in traditional billowing Korean gowns.

The North Korean leader's appearance at the airport was

unexpected, and South Korean officials said they were delighted with the elaborate reception.

The two men rode together in a motorcade into Pyongyang, where at least 600,000 orderly North Koreans lined block after block of broad avenues, waving bouquets of pink paper flowers. The population of Pyongyang is two million people.

The frantic spectators appeared to direct their adulation at Kim Jong Il, whose name they chanted in unison as the motorcade passed a huge stone arch and other imposing monuments.

King Jong Il, who enjoys a personality cult in the closed-off, communist north, often receives such displays from his people.

The pudgy Kim Jong Il normally shuns publicity and rarely meets visiting dignitaries, but he appeared relaxed and was dressed in a khaki, open-necked shirt and trousers. He welcomed Kim Dae-jung, wearing a dark suit, at the foot of his plane.

"They sometimes held hands in a show of personal intimacy" and exchanged views in the limousine during a 40-minute ride into Pyongyang, said Park Joon-young, South Korea's presidential spokesman.

At a guesthouse, the two Kims posed for photographs in front of a mural of crashing

See page 11 col 6



North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il (L) shakes hands with South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung (R) at Sunan airport in Pyongyang, North Korea. South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung arrived in Pyongyang yesterday for the historic summit. — AFP photo

## UNDP's Poverty Report 2000

# Corruption, law & order major obstacles

By Staff Correspondent

The UN officials in Dhaka said yesterday Bangladesh would do better in its poverty reduction endeavour if it takes into account the corruption and law and order situation in future.

Formally launching the UNDP's annual *Poverty Report 2000* at IDB Bhabhan in the city, they also advocated for integration of poverty issue into all government programmes if the country wanted a faster pace in its fight against poverty.

Andre Klap, resident representative of UNDP in Dhaka, said corruption and deterioration in law and order are detrimental to the endeavour to contain poverty.

"Without corruption the per capita income could have been double than what it is now," said Klap while launching the report, second in the series. The report tried to assess progress and changes in poverty eradication approaches since the 1995 World Summit on Social Development.

Addressing the press on the same occasion, the UN resident coordinator and the WFP representative in Dhaka, Werner Kiene also pointed out that absence of corruption would see one percent rise in Bangladesh's annual growth. "If there has been no corrup-

tion, the pace of poverty reduction would have been double."

At the current rate, said Kiene, it would take a long time to get a "poverty-free" Bangladesh. "That's why we're saying that Bangladesh should have poverty policies integrated into all of its programmes and enhance safety-net."

Klap supplemented Kiene saying, "We're in touch with the Planning Commission to have more poverty integration into the overall policy and programme-formulation in the next five-year plan of the government."

He appreciated Bangladesh's See page 11 col 6

## Unruly activities on campus Showcause notices on 20 DU students

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday served showcause notices on 20 students on charge of various unruly activities including terrorism at Sir Salimullah (SM) Hall.

The authorities declared Rashidul Islam Dollar, SM Hall unit general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) persona-non-grata. The authorities also asked him to leave the hall immediately and in case of violation of the order, the university authorities will take action as per law. Dollar is a former student of Geography

and Environment Department.

The decision was taken yesterday at an emergency meeting chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury. The meeting was also attended by Pro-VC Prof Sahadat Ali, Treasurer Prof Abul Hashem and SM Hall provost Prof Aminur Rasheed. According to the hall sources, a group, allegedly led by the BCL leaders beat up Ruhul Qudus, a third year student of Bangla Department and member of BCL hall unit committee, on Monday midnight at the gate of the hall. See page 11 col 3

## Ctg EPZ Workers reject proposal to reinstate 15, lay siege

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 13: The agitating workers of four towel factories of American company Qualitex Group at Chittagong export processing zone (CEPZ) today laid a siege to the office of CEPZ General Manager for five hours from 2 pm today, demanding reinstatement of 15 terminated workers. CEPZ sources said.

During the siege, the workers demonstrated and chanted slogans demanding immediate withdrawal of termination order.

See page 11 col 4

## Furore over 'fix' claims

Star Report

The cricket boards of Bangladesh and India reacted with shock and horror on Tuesday at suggestions their cherished World Cup win over Pakistan last year may have been fixed.

The chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board, General Taqir Zia, has also dismissed the accusations.

The allegations were made by former chief of PCB executive Majid Khan, but officials

from all three countries insist their teams were not involved in any collusion over the results.

Bangladesh beat Pakistan by 62 runs at Northampton after their opponents had recorded four successive wins.

"As far as we are concerned, Bangladesh played their match with Pakistan fair and square. We played our best," said Bangladesh Cricket Board president Saber Hossain Chowd-

hury to AFP in Dhaka.

"I stand by my earlier statement that Bangladesh was not party to any match fixing."

"Our regular board meeting scheduled for Wednesday will also look into this allegation and we will look for what evidence there is about the match ... so far these are just allegations," he said.

Saber also said they would also see what the South African See page 11 col 4

## Assad laid to rest

QARDAHA (Syria), June 13: Syrian President Hafez al-Assad was buried today in Qardaha, the mountain village where he was born 69 years ago, reports Reuters.

With his second son and successor Bashar watching and a bugle sounding, Syrian generals and the presidential guard laid the coffin inside a grave beside that of his beloved eldest son Basil, who died in a 1994 car accident.

The state funeral for the Syrian leader, who died on Saturday after 30 years in power, had begun with a procession of his coffin through the streets of Damascus. Then it lay for five hours at a palace where world dignitaries paid their final respects.

The coffin, accompanied by Bashar, was then flown to the coastal airport near Qardaha for transfer to the village on the edge of the Alawite Mountains where he began his rise from poverty.

AP adds: Pallbearers in scarlet berets and combat fatigues See page 11 col 7



Syrian officers carry the coffin of late President Hafez al-Assad in Damascus yesterday and (inset) official Syrian TV shows Sheikh Hasina praying at the coffin. — AFP photo

## Hasina attends state funeral

DAMASCUS, June 13: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today attended the state funeral of Syrian President Hafez al-Assad at Al-Shaab Palace, where over two hundred heads of state and government and delegations of friendly states assembled to pay their last respect to the architect of modern Syria, reports BSS.

President-nominate Dr Bashar al-Assad, his brothers and the Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party leadership received condolences offered by guest Arab and friendly delegations at Al-Shaab Palace.

The Prime Minister stood in solemn silence beside the coffin of President Assad as a mark of respect. She also offered *fateha* and special *munajat*.

Later, the Prime Minister met President-nominate Dr Bashar at the palace and held discussion for about 20 minutes. See page 11 col 6

## Rajuk demolishes illegal market at Uttara

By Staff Correspondent

Rajuk yesterday demolished an unauthorised under-construction market at Uttara Sector-6 in the city within the 72-hour deadline given by the Home Minister to bulldoze the complex.

Dipu Chowdhury, son of State Minister for LGED Mofazzol Hossain Chowdhury Maya was the Chairman of the Market Committee, according to its Managing Director Mokarrom Hossain. The 93 shareholders of the market included relatives of some ruling party stalwarts and the wife of a BNP MP, he said.

Rajuk says the market was raised without permission. A contingent of 300 police-

men led by DC (North) Mizanur Rahman cordoned off the area while three bulldozers razed the single-storey market where 516 shops were being built on more than six bighas of land.

None of shareholders were present during the demolition to place any legal claim.

A signboard at the market said there was a Supreme Court injunction regarding settlement of ownership of the land.

When some newsmen at the spot asked about the court order and the signboard, the DC said they were acting under orders from their higher authorities.

The police officer who was supervising the demolition said, "Rajuk's Magistrate will

be able to give you a better answer". But no Rajuk Magistrate could be found there during the demolition.

When contacted last night, Mokarrom told The Daily Star that the demolition was violation of a Supreme Court injunction. Each of the shareholders had paid amounts up to Tk 2 lakh for shops, he added.

Rajuk also engaged 55 day labourers to clean the area after the demolition. The DC said police were deployed there on request of Rajuk to check any untoward incident.

A large number of local people See page 12 col 1

PROUD TO BE IN THE  
COMMERCIAL CAPITAL  
AND PORT CITY OF  
**CHITTAGONG**

**GRAND OPENING TODAY, 14TH JUNE, 2000  
AT 95 AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA**



**ONE Bank**  
LIMITED

... We make things happen

Commercial Court, 95 Agrabad Commercial Area, Agrabad, Chittagong Phone : 721384, 726295

Head Office and Principal Branch : Zaman Court, 45 Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dilkusha, Dhaka-1000.  
Phone : 9564255-56 9551799 9564249 9552604 Fax : 9564870 Telex : 642491, e-mail : onebnk@bdcom.com