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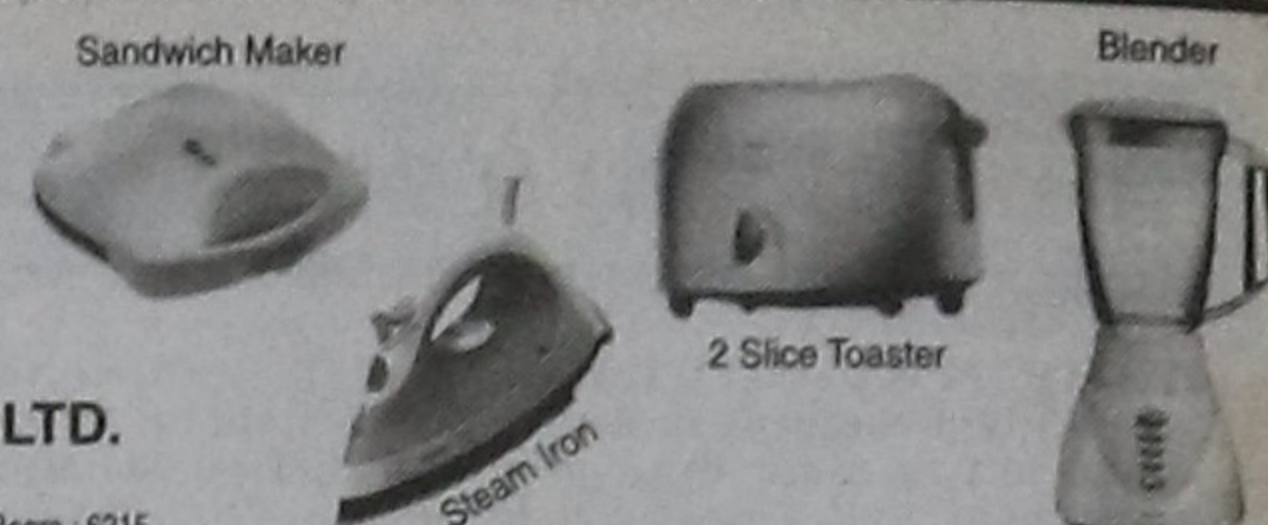
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### Masaki at Kuakata Disappearance of Masaki: Police help sought

By Special Correspondent

Abul Bashar, a resident of Shahidbagh in the city, filed general diary with the Motijheel police station yesterday, seeking police assistance to unearth the mystery behind the disappearance of Japanese citizen Masaki Arayama from Dhaka on December 7, 1980.

Bashar, a businessman, furnished a picture of himself with a person who he said was Arayama.

Motijheel police confirmed that they have recorded a general diary filed by Abul Bashar.

Arayama's family has been seeking Bangladeshi citizens to help them find out the missing Japanese backpacker. His sister Koga Michiko has launched a fresh appeal through newspaper to help her find the missing brother.

However, she left Dhaka on Monday and did not see the picture of an oriental man in his late forties with whom Bashar had a photo at the beach.

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### 3-member team starts interrogating Shimul today

From Staff Correspondent  
 KHULNA, June 13: A three-member high level team has been formed to interrogate Mahmud Hasan Shimul, Political Commissioner of PBCP in Khulna division. Shimul has been brought back to Khulna from Jessore Central Jail.

The members of the team are Golam Mastafa, senior police super of SB Dhaka, Sakawat Hossain, Additional SP of CID, Dhaka and Mazharul Islam, DC (south) of KMP.

The team will start functioning from tomorrow, said a source in KMP.

### Looting at CEPZ: 4 arrested

From Staff Correspondent  
 CHITTAGONG, June 13: Police arrested four people including a woman today in connection with the looting of Tk 16 lakh from a Korean company, Lim's (BD) Ltd.

The incident took place at Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) last week.

The arrested are as Nurul Islam, driver of the microbus used in the looting, Abdul Aziz, Yasmin Aktar and Motin Hossain.

They were arrested from CGS Colony in Halishahar and Hajipara in Agrabad area.

Police also seized the microbus used during the incident. Police said hunt was on to nab others involved in the incident.

### Trader shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent  
 A trader of sanitary ware was shot dead near his residence at Mirpur last night, hospital sources said quoting the victim's family members.

All Akbar, 28, was shot point blank at about 9:00 pm, in front of the BRTC Bus Depot at Mirpur Section 10. Doctors declared him dead when he was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The Mirpur police said they were yet to receive any such information in this regard.

### Rajuk

From page 1

ple gathered around the area to watch the demolition. Several Rajuk officials entered the police cordon posing themselves as passersby and watched the demolition, many in the crowd claimed.

## Quality expenditure needed for higher growth rate: WB

By Staff Correspondent

The World Bank has stressed the need for quality expenditure to attain higher growth rate and sustain fiscal deficit in annual budgets.

Bangladesh's growth rate at 5 per cent to 5.5 per cent over the past four years is remarkable. Good quality spending can help the country grow by 8 to 10 per cent," Roberto Zagha, WB's Sector Manager, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, South Asia region said here yesterday. "But the quality of expenditure is extremely poor now."

Bangladesh's economy is the 8th among the fast growing economies in the world, he said. It is a "remarkable performance indeed," Zagha observed.

Growth in agriculture and export sectors and improvement in social indicators is very good, he observed.

But he expressed concern

that a number of projects in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) are not viable economically.

Zagha, WB Country Director Frederick T. Temple, and its senior economists were speaking at a quarterly meeting with members of the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) at its conference room.

Regarding government borrowing from the banking system, WB economist Zahid Hossain said, there was no inflation due to this. "There was excess liquidity in banks."

Earlier, briefing newsmen on the ongoing discussion on the Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for Bangladesh, Temple said the next CAS will have a comprehensive approach to poverty reduction and emphasis on governance.

The most striking result of the first round of consultations

was the pervasive emphasis on importance of improving governance to reduce poverty and achieve prosperity in Bangladesh, Temple said.

He said IDA lending to Bangladesh has been substantially lower than it could be, primarily because of the slow pace of reforms.

"We recognise the constraints in accelerating reforms during an election year, but we would be prepared to increase our level of financial support if the government formed after the election adopts and begins to implement a bolder reform programme," Temple added.

During the discussions, the importance of reducing corruption and improving law and order was stressed by every group, he said.

To prepare the next CAS, the World Bank held consultations

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## Road accidents in 3 dists kill 18

By Staff Correspondent

At least 18 people were killed and 60 others injured in separate road accidents in Satkhira, Dhaka and Comilla yesterday.

Of them, 11 were killed in Satkhira, five in the capital city and the rest in Comilla.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: At least 11 people were killed and 50 others injured, ten of them seriously, in two separate road accidents at Chapra and Budhata in Ashasuni thana on Satkhira-Ashasuni road yesterday morning.

The dead include two firefighters of Satkhira Fire Brigade.

Police and witnesses said a Satkhira-bound bus from Ashasuni fell into a roadside ditch in Chapra area at around 9:30 am while giving side to another bus, killing nine passengers of the bus on the spot and injuring 47 others.

Local people rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies. They also rescued about 25 passengers from the bus while the rest, however, managed to come out of the vehicle.

The dead were identified as Habibullah, 16, Kakoli, 12, Nasima, 16, Debashish Mondal, 18, Swapan Mandal, 35, Tutul, 5, Joydev Kumar, 16, Kawser Shania, 45, and Entaj Ali, 20.

Some of the injured were admitted to Satkhira hospital while others to Ashasuni Health Complex and different

clinics in Satkhira town.

On receipt of information, one Fire Brigade ambulance from Satkhira fire service station rushed to the spot to bring the injured to Satkhira hospital.

But the ambulance overturned after collision with a tempo in Budhata area, killing two fire fighters on the spot and injuring three others.

The dead firefighters were identified as Sajjad Hossain and Atiar Rahman.

The injured three were taken to Satkhira Sadar Hospital. Soon after the accident at Chapra, local people went on the rampage. They put up a barricade on the highway, disrupting traffic for about three hours and set ablaze a bus.

BSS adds: At least five people were killed in separate road accidents in the city yesterday.

Police and hospital sources said an unidentified man aged about 50 was killed on the spot at Bangladesh Secretariat link road at about 12:30 pm when a minibus hit him there. The man was crossing the road.

An unidentified man aged about 30 succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 1 pm yesterday. The man suffered critical injuries when a truck knocked him from behind in Gulistan area at 8 pm last

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The run-down road in front of Tejgaon Railway Station has failed to catch the attention of the authorities. — Star photo

## Kargil biggest debacle after '71 war: Sharif

KARACHI, June 13: Deposed Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif today promised to expose the Kargil 'debacle' as he launched another broadside on the military from the sidelines of his corruption trial, reports AFP.

Sharif said he would name those responsible for the bloody border conflict with India last year if he was allowed to testify before a military commission.

He described the Kargil conflict in Kashmir as one of the biggest debacles in the country's history and again called for an official investigation.

"Kargil was the biggest debacle after the 1971 war with India" which led to the dismemberment of Pakistan, Sharif told reporters here as he arrived for the start of proceedings at his ongoing trial for tax evasion.

He said a high-powered military commission or a panel of

independent judges should investigate the conflict.

"I know the people who were behind this conflict but I will reveal their names at the commission," he said.

Sharif reiterated his claims yesterday that the operation was planned secretly by the Pakistani military and he was not aware of it until after the fighting erupted in May.

"As prime minister I was not taken into confidence over the conflict," he said.

The military-led government under former army chief General Pervez Musharraf, which ousted Sharif from power in a coup in October, has denied organising the operation.

The conflict in Kargil

## No newsprint supplied from KNM

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 13: KNM authorities did not supply newsprint to any newspaper of the country today despite payment of money.

An official of the Khulna Newsprint Mills (KNM) said that only eight metric tons of newsprints were produced in four days which even can not meet demand of a newspaper's daily printouts.

Another source said, supply was stopped this morning as KNM authorities received a fax message from the BCIC Head Office about further price hike of the newsprint per metric ton.

The enhanced price of white roll is Tk 32,450 per ton and white sheet is Tk 40,000 per ton.

Those who went to the mill today were refused delivery of their consignment on different pretexts.

## Tree plantation campaign begins today

A three-month long countrywide tree plantation campaign will begin today, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to open the drive at a function at the National Parade Ground here in the afternoon. She will also award the winners of "Prime Minister's National Award for Tree Plantation 1999."

## Biman to hire 18 foreign pilots

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman is hiring 18 expatriate pilots to meet the shortage which is putting pressures on its 129 pilots who are operating 140-150 flights a week now.

The pressure will increase when two more wide-body aircraft will be added to the fleet by August.

The foreign pilots would be hired on contract basis, initially for a year. Biman plans to recruit cadet pilots after promoting 75 pilots.

It also intends to relieve Biman fliers, whose duty often borders on the limits of pilot's mandatory rest period before new flights, violating CAAB (Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh) regulations.

"But there is no compromise with flight safety and the pilots are never forced to fly without rest," Air Commodore Rafiqul Islam, Managing Director of Biman, told newsmen at a briefing yesterday.

He said the expatriate pilots are being hired to meet the interim demand of the fleet and for flight expansion.

The Biman, having 13 aircraft now, is going to acquire its sixth DC-10-30 and fourth Airbus 310. This will put pressure on its pilots. Three retired Captains have been called back on contract basis.

An expatriate pilot will get a pay of 4000 to 5000 dollars against a carry home pay of 3000 dollars of a DC-10 pilot, who also gets other benefits.

The MD said Biman's pilot problem was mainly in international routes where frequency of flights and the number of passengers have increased over the years. But there has been no recruitment of pilots since 1994 when 41 were inducted.

There had been a slow rate of promotion. Only seven pilots qualified. The number is so less as they failed to complete their mandatory 750 flight hours with 250 hours from flying academies. It was due to decline in frequency of flights by F-28

in domestic services and grounding of two ATPs. Cadet pilots start their career in domestic flights.

Asked to comment on the reported concern expressed by the Civil Operational Safety and Continuing Air Worthiness in South Asia (COSCAP), a regional aviation watch dog, he said their auditors have claimed 22 violations of mandatory ten-hour resting period between flights by pilots of Biman.

But there were only two cases of violation, he said. In one case in January, it was two hours 16 minutes and in another case one hour ten minutes, he said.

The MD said Biman is going to reply to the COSCAP allegations and take up the issue with the CAAB.

## Bid to occupy flour mill at Sirajganj: 36 held

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, June 13: Police foiled a bid to occupy Ajmiri Flour Mill defying a court injunction here today.

Police said a group of armed men allegedly hired by Alhaj Fazlur Rahman, went to the mill run by Abdul Khaleque and tried to occupy it forcibly.

When the armed men reached there, the employees and workers of the mill prevented the armed gang from entering the mill. Both the groups clashed for an hour, leaving 20 injured.

On receipt of information police rushed to the spot and fired teargas shells to disperse the clashing groups. They arrested 36 people with arms from the spot. Alhaj Fazlur Rahman was also taken into custody.

Local people said, the clash occurred over dispute of ownership of the flour mill.

A case was filed in connection with the clash.



Police guarding Ajmiri Flour Mill in Sirajganj town after a clash between two groups over ownership of the mill yesterday. — Star photo by Akteruzzaman

## Obituary ref on President Assad Budget discussion on in barren JS

By Staff Correspondent

General discussion on the proposed national budget began yesterday in a barren looking parliament, with the treasury bench members singing praises of the government and blasting the boycotting opposition right and left.

Earlier, a two-day discussion on the supplementary budget for the outgoing 1999-2000 fiscal ended on Monday.

Absence of House leader and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is attending funeral of the Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad, apparently caused the exodus in the treasury bench.

Before taking up the budget discussion, the House adopted an obituary reference on the Syrian president and heard notices on issues of public importance. The written questions and their answers were tabled as per the decision of the Business Advisory Committee of parliament.

A total of five treasury bench members including two ministers participated in the discussion. They called the proposed budget a welfare-oriented and pro-people one.

They claimed the proposed budget would help the business community to stimulate business and industry along with the growing agriculture sector.

The discussants were: Agriculture Minister Matia Choudhury, State Minister for Planning Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Akhteruzzaman, Panna Kaisar and Jannatul Ferdous.

Matia Choudhury said a policy to increase funding the social sectors was followed in the formulation of the new budget. She strongly protested the opposition view that increased allocations in such sectors aimed to win the next general elections.

She said increased funds have been proposed for education and waiving tax on raw materials for local industries, software industry and computer equipment to broaden the foundation of local industrial base.

"Due to our prudent policies, the amount of direct tax has increased substantially and it would increase further in the years to come."

She noted that if the rate of direct tax increases, the revenue earning dependency on import duty would decrease.

Matia Choudhury said agriculture sector showed considerable growth in the last four years of AL rule and accused the past governments of neglecting the vital sector to enable their people earn commission from huge food imports.

Referring to opposition

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