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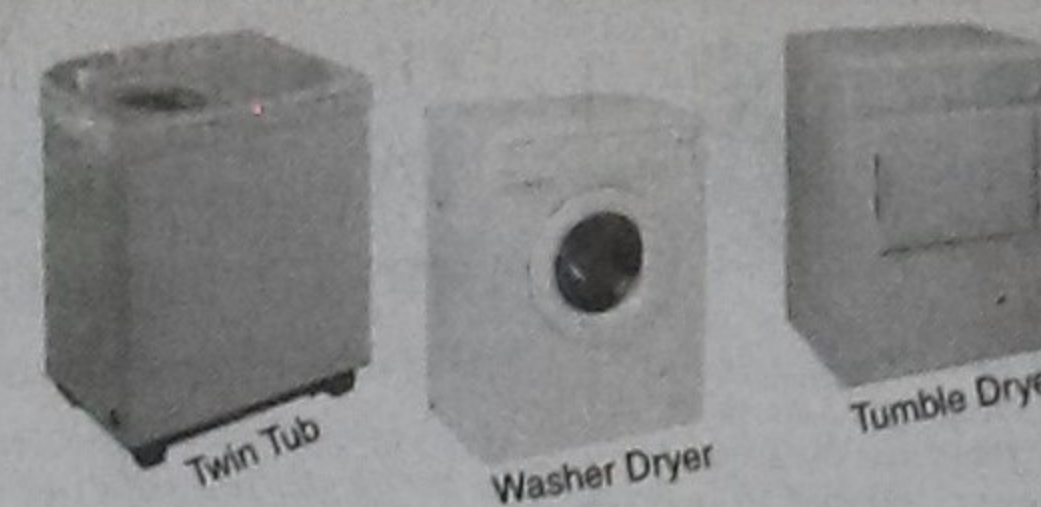
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Bangabandhu's 7th March speech incorporated in Degree course

The historic 7th March speech of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has been incorporated in academic syllabus at Degree level, reports UNB.

An announcement from the National University yesterday said the famous speech of Mujib against Pakistani regime in 1971 would now be studied by students of degree Pass and Honours courses under the variety.

The NU authorities included the total speech in the syllabus of compulsory Bengali subject (National Language) of Degree Pass and Bengali Language and Literature of Honours courses.

"The newly introduced chapter of the syllabus will be followed from next October," said the announcement.

It said the decision was adopted in the 35th meeting of the NU academic council.

NU VC Prof Aminul Islam chaired the meeting, attended, among others, by Pro-VC Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Prof Lutfar Rahman, Registrar Feroz Ahmed Akhter and Controller of Examinations Prof Binoy Ratan Barua.

The NU senate, in its seventh session held on March 30 this year, decided to include the historic speech in the syllabus.

Cabinet okays draft Land Port Authority Act 2000

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft 'Bangladesh Land Port Authority Act 2000' to ease export-import trade through land routes across the border, reports UNB.

An official announcement said the approval was given in a meeting held at the PM office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

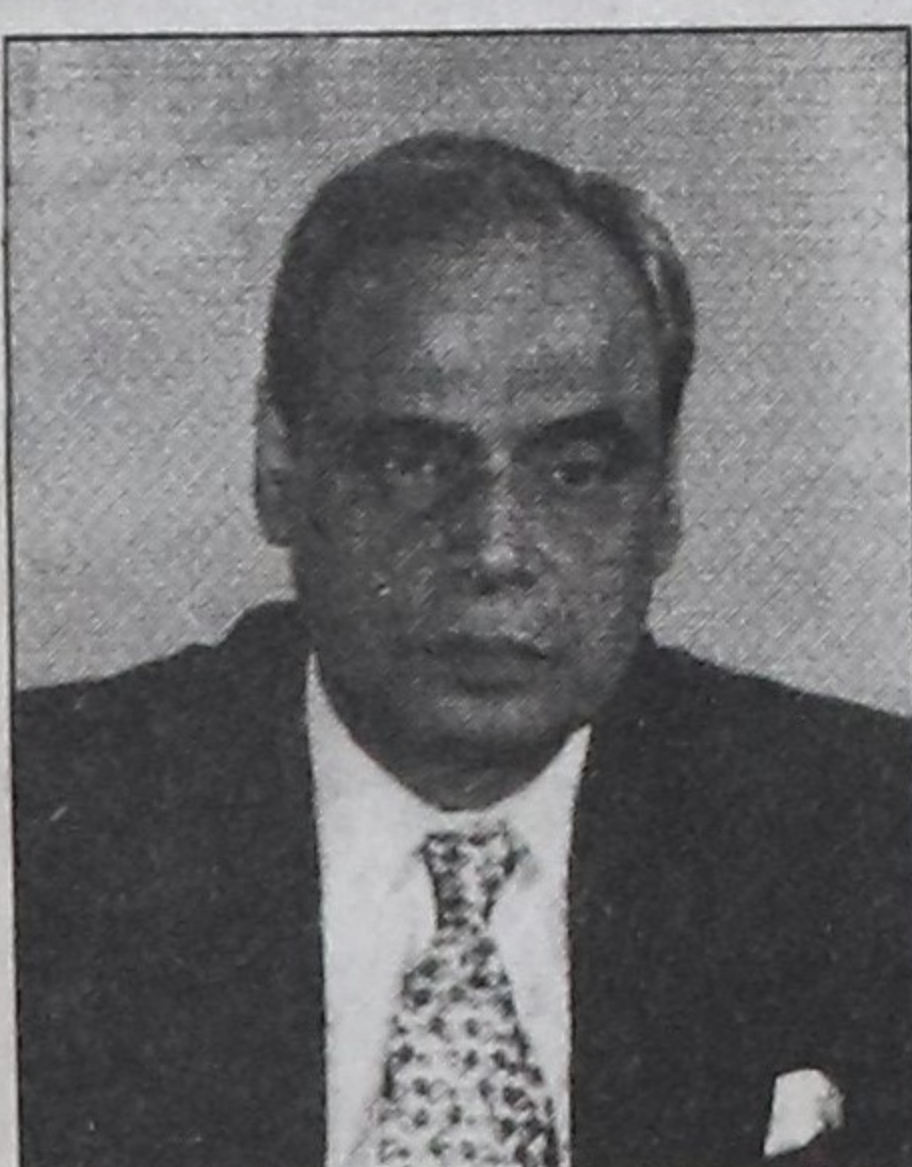
Nari Samaj demands direct polls to 30 JS seats

By Staff Correspondent
Sammilita Nari Samaj (SNS) brought out a procession and held a rally in the city yesterday protesting the Bill seeking continuation for another 10 years the provision for 30 reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad.

The government recently placed the Bill in parliament seeking continuation of the provision for another 10 years from the beginning of the next parliament's tenure.

Rejecting the present system of nomination as MPs, the Nari Samaj demanded that 30 JS seats be kept exclusively for women candidates for direct election.

Addressing the rally at Muk-tangan, its leaders said the women in the country are ready to contest general elections and



WE MOURN

We are deeply shocked at the sudden demise of **Mr. K. M. Ejazul Huq**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank of Small Industries and Commerce

Bangladesh Limited (BASIC). We pray to Almighty Allah for eternal peace and salvation of his departed soul. May Allah give patience to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND
EMPLOYEES OF



Bank of Small Industries and Commerce Bangladesh Limited

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Khaleda assures businessmen a respite from hartal

Opposition leader Khaleda Zia yesterday assured the business community of respite from hartal and her active support to smooth growth of trade and industry, business sources said, reports UNB.

"You see we aren't calling any hartal now. There was only one hartal recently after a long period," she was quoted as telling a delegation of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) that called on her yesterday evening.

"It is not the political parties, businesspeople are now enforcing hartal against terrorism and killing," she was also quoted to have told the businessmen citing instances of local hartal protesting murder of businessman by terrorists.

DCCI leaders urged the political leaderships to help create an environment favourable for private sector-led growth and

sought for national consensus on economic issues to make sure that no political programme affects the economy.

The delegation led by DCCI president Altaf Ul Islam included former presidents of the Chamber Rashid Maksud Khan and M H Rahman.

A similar delegation met with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday.

Altaf said major political parties should have consensus on issues like improving law and order, solving port and traffic congestion, checking smuggling, developing infrastructures and services.

Reforms in banking sector, diversification of export and industry, privatisation and one-day weekly holiday are the main issues Altaf laid stress where business community expects political consensus.

He said absence of proper

political culture, hartals and deteriorating law and order situation are jeopardising trade and investment climate, already frustrated by persistent administrative and infrastructural weaknesses.

"Keeping all economic activities uninterrupted is very essential for our survival and economic emancipation," Altaf said, urging for consensus among political parties so that no political programme impedes the economic activities.

Business leaders also expressed concern over commercial ventures undertaken by NGOs, who are doing business in the name of voluntary services without paying taxes and creating an uneven competition with domestic industries.

The goal of all political parties should be to ensure uninterrupted economic growth.

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Changes in proposed budget suggested

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Baboshayee Songhathan Samannaya Parishad, an association of several trade bodies, has suggested some changes in the proposed budget for 2000-2001 as regards import duties, income tax and value added tax (VAT).

It said government officials and employees should be brought under income tax net and made to declare their wealth.

The rate of income tax should be different for small and big companies—20 per cent for publicly traded ones and 30 per cent for non-publicly traded ones, it said in a press release yesterday. It also suggested some changes in income tax laws.

The Parishad suggested that imported industrial raw materials be divided into five categories depending on the level of value addition, and five rates of duty be imposed on those. A 'national committee' comprising representatives from Tariff Commission, FBCCI and National Board of Revenue could be formed to re-organise the duty structure. The committee would also work to simplify and 'modernise' the VAT and suggest measures to encourage local and foreign investment. It also suggested reduction of duty on some industrial raw materials and exemption for some others.

The Parishad also suggested

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JCD dissolves its DU hall units

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has dissolved its all hall unit committees due to expiry of their tenure.

This was announced at an emergency meeting of JCD DU unit with its president Manir Hossain in the chair. The meeting also decided to form new committees of the units soon.

Addressing the meeting as chief guest, JCD president Habib-un-Nabi Sohel urged the student community to continue their movement against the 'misrule' of the ruling party.

JCD general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, Monjur Elahi, Monwar Hossain Rana, Mozaffar Hossain Zakir, Tariqul Islam Bani and A B M Mosharrar Hossain were present at the meeting.

DMP failure to nab criminals worries Nasim

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim, worried about rising incidents of killing, questioned yesterday why police crackdown against terrorism was failing in the capital, reports UNB.

"If you are successful in Southwestern Bangladesh, in Feni and in Sherpur, then why are you failing in the capital?" the minister asked police officials at a high-level meeting at the Police Headquarters. New IGP Mohammad Nurul Huda also spoke.

"I have increased the budget. I have introduced risk allowance. I gave whatever you sought. I don't want to hear about any limitations. There must be some limitations in every sector, but we have to work against all odds and show our skill and capability," he told the crime conference of the police.

The home minister, however, expressed satisfaction over overall downturn in terrorist activity in the country of official sources close to the meeting said.

"If the criminals involved in crimes like killing could not be

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Husband throws acid on wife, son in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 19: A woman and her three-year-old son received burn injuries when her husband threw acid on them this morning, police said.

The injured, Fatema Begum, 29, and her son Nur Ahmed, 3, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Police said Nuruzzaman threw acid on his wife and son at around 7 am.

Nuruzzaman fled the house soon after the incident. Police could not arrest him till filing of this report at 8 pm today.

Prokrichi holds rally, reiterates demands

By Special Correspondent

The Prokrichi-BCS Central Coordination Council has reiterated its demand that the government should not proceed with the reported move to create super numerary posts, upgrade 257 posts and promote 400 senior assistant secretaries as deputy secretaries and 150 deputy secretaries as joint secretaries in the administration cadre.

Addressing a rally in the city yesterday, leaders of the council warned that if the plan is implemented, they would instantly protest it by holding rally and demonstrating on the streets.

The rally held yesterday at the Institution of Engineers was chaired by President of the council M Enamul Huq. It decided to observe organisational week from July 1 to July 8 for the formation of Prokrichi-BCS committees at regional, district and upzila levels to make a success their 'national conference' in Dhaka on July 22.

Resolutions were adopted at the rally expressing deep resentment over 'failure' of the government to implement the council's eight-point demand and cancel 'quota-based' promotion policy, according to a press release.

In another resolution, the council expressed concern over what it said reports about undue pressure from a vested group on the Public Administration Reforms Commission (PARC) to prevent the government from meeting its public commitments to ensure a democratic and accountable administration.

It also resented the remarks by State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir in parliament on June 14 on administrative reforms in 1979-1980 and urged him to withdraw his remarks. It also sought a clarification from the government.

The rally was addressed by, among others, Choudhury Khalequzzaman, Dr M A K Azad, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Nazrul Islam, Nurul Huda, Jahanara Begum, Dr Yunus Ali Sarker, Matuor Rahman, Manirul Islam, Dr Sharfuddin Ahmed, Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan and Dr Abdur Razzak.

Proceedings of Chetia Case adjourned till June 28

By Court Correspondent

The Fifth Assistant Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday fixed June 28 for hearing of argument in a case filed against ULFA leader Anup Chetia and his two associates.

The judge, Humayun Kabir, adjourned the proceedings of the case on the basis of a petition submitted by the defence lawyers on grounds that some necessary documents relating to hearing of arguments were not taken from their residence.

Chetia and his two associates.

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Report on campus situation of DU, RU presented to President

Education Minister ASHK

Sadique yesterday presented a report on campus situation of Dhaka and Rajshahi universities to President Shahabuddin Ahmed in a move to restore peaceful academic atmosphere there, reports UNB.

The report was prepared by the Foundation for Research on Education Planning and Development (FREPD) under the guidance of National Professor Mohammad Shams-ul Huq.

Presenting the report to the President at Bangabhaban the Education Minister said primarily the FREPD was assigned

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One beaten to death in N'ganj

By Staff Correspondent

One person was beaten to death and his nephew was robbed off Tk 17,000 at Folder Bridge under Shiddirganj police station in Narayanganj district on Dhaka-Chittagong highway Sunday night, said sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

A gang of four attacked Iqbal Hossain and his nephew Asif at Folder Bridge while they were returning to their Narayanganj residence in a motor bike at about 12:00 noon.

The gang beat up Iqbal and Asif. At one stage they hit on the Iqbal's head with an iron rod, hospital sources said quoting the victim's relatives. The gang also took away Tk 17,000 from Asif.

Road accidents kill student, 2 others

By Staff Correspondent

Three people including a female student were killed in separate road accidents in the city yesterday, police said.

A female student of Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute was killed in a road accident at Tejgaon truck stand in the morning.

The victim was identified as Zinnat Nahar Rina, 17, daughter of Abdul Mannan of 98/1 West Kafrul at Agargaon. She was the second year student of Electrical Department.

The incident took place when a speeding truck hit the rickshaw carrying Nahar to the institute at about 7:45 am. Nahar fell on the ground and received serious injuries.

She was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the attending doctors declared her dead.

An unidentified woman, 23,

was crushed under the wheels of a speeding vehicle at Chairmanbari on Airport Road at about 5 am.

Police recovered the body of the victim and sent it to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Gulshan police in this regard.

MA Khaleq, 52, an employee of Biman cargo was run over by a minibus in front of the 6 Armed Battalion at Uttara at about 9:40 am.

The incident took place when Khaleq was crossing the road.

Critically injured Khaleq was rushed to the DMCH where the attending doctors declared him dead. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Uttara police in this regard.

Newsman protest 'misdemeanour' by SSF at Sangsad Bhaban entrance

Journalists of national dailies and news agencies protested yesterday alleged misdemeanour by a member of the Special Security Force at the main entrance of Sangsad Bhaban, reports UNB.

Aggrieved journalists met Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury at his chamber and lodged a complaint. The Speaker directed the sergeant-at-arms to talk with the SSF and ascertain why the journalists were obstructed from entering the Sangsad Bhaban with mobile phone.

He also asked the sergeant-at-arms to

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UK for stringent law against forced marriages

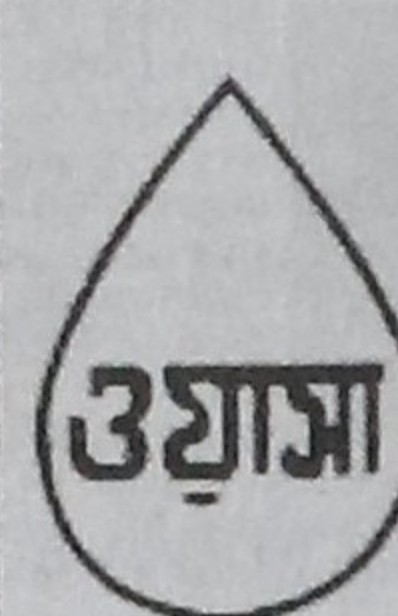
LONDON, June 19: Britain plans to deal firmly with cases of forced marriages and parents can face charges of abduction, kidnap and false imprisonment if found guilty, reports PTI.

A dedicated 'forced marriages' team will now be established in embassies in some Asian countries, the Sunday Telegraph reported yesterday.

In cases where a man or woman has been taken abroad to be married against their will, their spouse will be refused entry to Britain.

A report has found that there are more than 1200 'arranged' marriages each year and most

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Special Notice for Govt. Departments & Autonomous Bodies for Payment of DWASA Bills

➤ Further to our press advertisement in the months of April, May & June 2000, it is hereby notified for all Heads of Govt. /Semi-Govt. Departments and Autonomous Bodies to clear all their outstanding dues without surcharge positively by 25th June 2000.

➤ In the event that outstanding dues are not cleared by 25th June 2000, formal notice of disconnection will be served to the defaulters from 26th June 2000. After 30 days of such notice, DWASA will have no alternative but to disconnect the water lines of the defaulters.

➤ Please note that if DWASA is unable to realize the overdue Public Sector Arrears, it may result in the suspension of the Credit of the 4th Dhaka Water Supply Project by the World Bank.

➤ For any complaint regarding Water/Sewer bills, please contact the concerned zonal revenue office or Chief Revenue Officer (☎ 9131569) or Commercial Manager (☎ 9120557) or Deputy Managing Director (F&A) (☎ 8116799).

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