

Cops probe bank accounts of Bidisha
Court orders she be moved to hospital
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police have launched an investigation into the bank accounts of Bidisha Ershad, the beleaguered wife of Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, to find out how much money she has deposited in the accounts and how she got it.
The investigators have already traced Bidisha's accounts with three banks and are almost certain that she has Tk 6 crore in two bank accounts in the country.
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Newspaper editors, publishers meet PM on newsprint
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A joint steering committee of newspaper editors, publishers and journalists union leaders called on Prime Minister (PM) Khaleda Zia on Monday and informed her about the existing problems in the country's newspaper industry, says a press release.
Led by Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP) President and Chairman of Ittefaq editorial board Barister Mainul Hossain, the team urged the PM to take necessary steps to cancel or reduce the tax on imported newsprint and increase the rate of government advertisements.
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Fighter crashes on house, six injured

BISHAWJIT DAS

A training aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) yesterday crashed onto a tin-roofed house in Uttara area of the capital, injuring six people including two babies.
The lone crew, BAF Flight Lieutenant Ahsanul Kabir, however

escaped unhurt as he jumped with a parachute at the last moment.

The fighter F-7 MB plane crashed due to technical faults at Fayedabad, about five kilometres northeast of Zia International Airport.
As soon as the aircraft crashed at 11:57am a few minutes after take-off, the one-storey house caught fire.

Two adjacent houses were also damaged in the crash.

The injured are Rowshan Ara, 30, her one-year-old daughter Albina and her mother Lily Begum, 50, Sajeda, 40, Asma Khondaker, 32, and her 18-month-old daughter Tia.
All of them were admitted to
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Locals and police crowd at Fayedabad in Uttara, where a training aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force crashed yesterday on a tin-roofed house, injuring six people.

Wall collapse kills three

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three construction workers were killed and two others injured when a basement wall of an under-construction building on Sonargaon Road in the capital collapsed on them yesterday.

The dead are Ayub Ali, 35, Abul Hossain, 40 and Billal Hossain, 18, fellow workers said.

According to witnesses, a basement wall about 20 feet below the ground level on one side of the planned 22-storey building -- Abdul Momen Finance City Tower -- partly gave in at about noon.

A group of 21 workers were

dumping sand between a row of piling pillars and temporary brick wall to strengthen them to prevent collapse of earth from the adjacent land during construction. Six of the workers were between the row of pillars and the wall as it collapsed," said Arman, a co-worker.

"Of the six, one managed to escape, two were injured while three were buried under sand, bricks and iron rods," Arman narrated to this correspondent.

About 25 workers instantly tried to dig them out but failed. Eventually, a crane at the construction site removed the pile of sand.
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The site of an under-construction 22-storey building on Sonargaon Road in the capital, where a basement wall caved in yesterday, killing three construction workers.

Budget size may increase 17pc

Pay, allowance to see significant rise

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

The upcoming budget may be Tk 63,900 crore in size and this fiscal year's revised budget may be downsized to Tk 55,500 crore from the original Tk 57,248 crore.

"Both the income and spending may be increased 16 to 17 percent from the revised budget," said a finance ministry official who preferred to remain unnamed.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman is going to propose the national budget in parliament tomorrow for a record 11th time, fourth under the present BNP-

led four-party alliance government. The finance ministry is now racing against clock to put final touches to the budget proposal.

Total revenue income for the coming year is going to be raised to Tk 45,720 crore, about 17 percent more than the revised budget, to meet the expenditure.

The budget deficit for the next year may hover around Tk 18,180 crore.

NEW BUDGET

The NBR portion of the total revenue budget may be hiked to Tk 35,650 crore, a 16.88 percent rise
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SALARY DISPARITY

Govt pledges steps to pacify cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government in a desperate bid to quell commotion in the police force assured police authorities yesterday of resolving in "a respectful way" the salary disparity between the police constables and army sepoy.

"The issue is well taken and the discrimination will be resolved soon," Inspector General of Police (IGP) Abdul Quayum said last night.

State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar visited Rajarbagh Police Lines yesterday afternoon to pacify the police constables in the wake of growing

resentment among them over the issue.

"He (Babar) told us that he has taken the matter up with the prime minister and the finance minister," the police chief said. He quoted Babar as saying that the head of the government and the finance minister have told him that the cause of the resentment would be eliminated soon.

The government recently increased the salaries of police constables and the sepoy of the armed forces, but the increase in a constable's salary was less than a sepoy's though both are of same
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Six mayors to join hands on city government plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mayors of the country's six city corporations will jointly put forward to the government a proposal for city or metropolitan government.

"We the mayors of the six city corporations will have a meeting within the next few months to formulate a joint plan for the corpora-

tions. Then we will submit it to the government," DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka told reporters at a programme yesterday at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

"It may be named either a 'city government' or anything like that," Khoka said about the system first proposed by former DCC mayor

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Defence ministry ignores Tk 48cr audit objections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has raised 31 objections involving Tk 48.33 crore to the expenditure on defence, but the defence ministry has not yet replied to any of those.

A CAG office report placed in parliament yesterday also said that

as many as 47,812 audit objections are still pending against spending of seven ministries in between fiscal years 1990-91 and 2001-02.

Of the objections, 6,075 are against the primary and mass education ministry, 10,683 against education ministry, 14,817 against health, 3,991 against home, 8449

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Budget session begins, to run until July 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad that began yesterday amid boycott of the main opposition Awami League (AL) will continue until July 10.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman will place the national budget for fiscal year 2005-06 on Thursday at 3:00pm and it will be passed on June 30, according to a decision taken by Business Advisory Committee before yesterday's sitting.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sirar in his opening address urged the main opposition to join the budget session to fulfil their constitutional obligations.

Reassuring his neutral role, the speaker said the opposition lawmakers will get reasonable time for
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Criminals hurt 4 cops, snatch 2 arrestees

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Criminals injured four police personnel and snatched away two arrestees at village Chandulia in Kaliganj upazila last night.

A police team led by sub-inspector (SI) Abdur Rahim arrested Kabil Gazi, 55, and his son Saiful Islam of village Chandulia for their involvement in an extortion case filed with the Kaliganj Police Station, police said.

As the policemen were returning to the police station with Kabil Gazi and Saiful Islam, they came under attack by criminals who tried to snatch away the arrestees.

The attackers beat up the four policemen mercilessly, looted their firearms and snatched away the two arrested.

Seriously injured police constables Abu Taher, Etadat Hossain and
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