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Unrest in the garment sector may hurt exports to the US

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Chinese PM Wen Jiabao says they are crucial for world peace

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BUDGET TODAY

Boycott feat beckons JS

SHAKHAWAT LITON

For the first time since the restoration of democracy in 1990, the Jatiya Sangsad will have four budget sessions without the opposition MPs present.

This will be a record since no parliament earlier had more than three budget sessions where the main opposition MPs were absent. The main BNP-led opposition had already boycotted the last three budget sessions of the ninth parliament and their absence in this one is almost certain.

The budget will be placed before the ninth parliament today and is likely to be passed on June 28.

The political situation is so volatile that many believe that the opposition lawmakers may even miss the next budget session, which will be the last budget for the ninth parliament.

According to the Parliament Secretariat, SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Balance is order of the day

Muhith skates on thin ice with problems, election hopes on his shoulders

INAM AHMED

Bangladesh economy has entered a dark tunnel and there is little flicker of light at its end.

A badly prolonged global depression, dipping investment, galloping inflation, slowing exports, a looming election and the tight embrace of the IMF -- they all make a messed up wool ball which offers a daunting task of straightening things out.

This is a situation through which Finance Minister AMA Muhith will present his penultimate budget of this government.

On one shoulder he will carry the weight of

BUDGET 2012-2013



being populist because this is basically the last budget of the government which it will have time to implement. On the other shoulder, he will have the responsibility to undo, even if to some extent, the economic mismanagement that he had allowed to take place.

Only time will say how he will balance both. But it is true that he will get very little policy space to take his own stride. The discipline of the IMF will be there to maintain macroeconomic stability through conservative fiscal management because he had to accept

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HISTORIC JUNE 7

Recalling Six Points

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

June 7 remains a milestone in the history of Bangladesh.

On this day in 1966, the people of what was then East Pakistan observed a

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LEGISLATURE, JUDICIARY AT ODDS

Resolve differences thru' mutual respect

Urge top jurists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurists yesterday urged the legislature and the judiciary to resolve the existing divergences between them in a manner that upholds mutual respect.

The conflict between the two supreme organs of the state surfaced after a High Court bench and some Awami League-led ruling alliance lawmakers traded remarks against each other on Tuesday.

The bench led by Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik

on the day said the parliament Speaker had provoked people against the apex court by making comments on its directive on a piece of Supreme Court land, and that the act amounted to "sedition".

On the same day, some lawmakers, including Suranjit Sengupta, Tofail Ahmed, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Rashed Khan Menon, said in parliament that Justice Manik had violated the constitution by making "derogatory

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IMMUNITY OF MPs

HC respected it twice before

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The High Court itself has in two previous verdicts upheld the immunity of MPs relating to their remarks in parliament by rejecting contempt of court petitions against two ministers over their comments in the House.

According to the verdicts delivered in 1993 and 1999, an MP enjoys unqualified and absolute immunity in respect of any speech made by him in parliament and the court has no jurisdiction to proceed against him for his speech.

Upholding the immunity guaranteed by Article 78 of the constitution, the High Court rejected two contempt petitions filed against then information minister

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Ensure Grameen Bank's integrity

Hillary writes to Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton hopes that Bangladesh government will ensure Grameen Bank's integrity, innovative governance and ownership structure for its sustenance as an effective development tool for the poor.

In a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Hillary also conveyed her hope that the government would ensure that

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Huda quits BNP, again

Says bad elements influencing Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Nazmul Huda yesterday announced his resignation as party Chairperson Khaleda Zia had not accepted his proposal to invite the prime minister to a dialogue on the caretaker government issue.

Inside the party there are some bad elements who are influencing Khaleda, SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Maiden case filed

2 assured of jobs in Saudi Arabia, sent to Egypt

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh witnesses the first-ever human trafficking case after parliament enacted the Human Trafficking (prevention and protection) Act, 2012 in February this year.

Mohammad Babu, 27, of Atrai in Naogaon, filed the case with Naogaon Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal on May 7 against a gang that allegedly trafficked two jobseekers to Egypt in the name of providing them with jobs in Saudi Arabia.

Charges were brought against Mohammad Israfil of Andharkota and his partners, Mohammad Selim and Delwar of the recruiting



Mohammad Babu

Emdadul

agency Sonali Enterprise and Akram Hossain of Khandker Overseas in Dhaka.

Offenders convicted of human trafficking would be handed down the highest capital punishment, lifetime imprisonment, different terms of rigorous jail or monetary fines or both on the basis of the gravity of their crime.

According to the case statement, Mohammad Israfil offered jobs to Mohammad Babu and Mohammad Emdadul of Andharkota in Saudi Arabia in early 2008 at monthly salaries of Tk 30,000 and asked them to pay Tk 6 lakh first.

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Four Bangladeshi children--Rafiqul, Al Amin, Akash and Hira--trafficked to India and forced to beg there return at Shahjalal International Airport yesterday evening to be reunited with their parents. They were all allegedly kidnapped by one Jewel Anis from the airport area and shipped to India. Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity and Indian NGO Butterflies with the help of the two governments brought the children back home.



RIDE HIGHLY RISKY

Overloaded and made locally with a diesel-run water pump engine, these vehicles ply highways and roads of towns across the country. Popularly known as Nosimon, these vehicles are not only illegal but unsafe too. The authorities appear indifferent to the thought of getting them off the roads. The photo was taken on the outskirts of Dinajpur town recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

As the festival of Eid approaches

The Daily Star is putting together

The Star Fashion Eid Album 2012

Ahead of the country's largest shopping season. If you wish to participate, send outfits and accessories you would like to feature in the album.

Last date of submission June 20, 2012

Attention: Designers & Boutiques

Criteria for Participation:

1. Dresses, saris and accessories should express the mood of the festival.
2. Materials used should be locally produced.
3. All submissions must be accompanied with a short description of the product, including price.
4. Designs should be original and fabrics should suit the weather and environment.
5. The attires and accessories sent for the album are returnable.
6. Entry fee per submission is tk 500 (minimum 6 entries for each participating house).

Contact:
(For submission of products)
Syeed Ahmed Chowdhury &
Teresa Mustafiz Chaity
Phone: 9144330-1, Cell: 01711623905

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