# \$25.53 crore cyclone aid commitment till June 30

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad Tuesday that the commitments of foreign assistance for the rehabilitation of the people affected by the cyclone and tidal surge of April 29 amounted to 25.53 crore US dollars till June 30, reports

Replying to a question from Mohammad Mizanur Rahmna Manu (AL-Dinajpur), the Finance Minister said of the total commitments 15.03 crore US dollars would form grant and 10.50 US dollars

The finance minister said different friendly countries and international relief organisations had provided food aid, eash and relief materials worth 12.90 crore US dollars till June 30. Of these, food aid worth 4.92 crore US dollars. cash 1.63 crore dollars and relief materials worth 6.35 crore dollars had been received. \*

Saifur Rahmna said in addition, 3.94 crore US dollars assistances had been received though private organisations (NGOs) and Bangladesh Red

#### Taka

From Page 1 Col. 8

Saifur Rahman said it was an accepted norm that currency was adjusted for maintaining rationality, international trade and interaction of different currencies.

Besides, adjustment was also necessitated in the interest of import, export and investment, he added.

Citing an example, the Finance Minister said our neighbour, India, had adjusted its currency twice in two days by 20 per cent.

He said each and every country adjusts its currency in its own interest

Saifur Rahman said adjustment or devaluation of Indian currency had made adverse effects on our economy. Besides, he said, it was also done to attract the Bangladeshis living abroad to send their remittances directly.

He said for a long time dollar had been accepted as intermediary currency for Bangladesh. He said rise and fall in the value of dollar necessitates adjustment with our currency.

The Finance Minister said the rate of adjustment was made on the basis of various economic principles of the country.

Crescent Society. Of these food items worth three lakh dollars, cash 2.97 crore dollars were received by the NGOs and 96 lakh dollars was received through Red Crescent Society.

He, however, said the government had no information whether these organisations had received any assistance for the rehabilitation of the affected people.

Besides, he said, 40,000 metric tons of wheat had been received from the food stock of the SAARC as loan.

The Finance Minister said though the relief had been received for the cyclone and tidal surge affected people there was no bar to use them in other areas.

#### 80 tolas gold seized at ZIA

A special squad of the detective police Tuesday seized 80 tolas of gold worth about Tk 5.60 lakh from an incoming passenger at the Zia International Airport. Abdul Gafur Chowdhury, who arrived at the airport in a Thai Airlines plane, was challenged by the squad while he was leaving after immigration and customs clearance, reports UNB.

#### Sudhangshu

From Page 1 Col. 8 Bangladesh before their downfall in last winter were once again active to create tension by raising the matter in the House. He thanked all political forces including Jamaat which had unitedly stood to resist violence at that time.

The matter was raised in the House by Jatiya Party member Advocate Fazle Rabbi Taking the floor Tofael Ahmed of AL said none in the House was against 'Bismillah' and the newspaper report in question was motivated. Suranjit Sengupta expressed the same opinion, and said that autocratic forces tried to create communal disturbances in November when all democratic forces had unitedly raised their voice against the rise of fundamentalists in India.

Matiur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat said he did not believe that Halder made such statement and requested the latter to explain his position. He took the opportunity to state that Jamaat should not be quoted with fundamentalist forces in India.

# VAT bill

From Page 1 Col. 4 could not be an isolated island in the world. Pakistan, India Singapore and other countries had accepted it.

He argued that VAT would encourage exports and discourage imports. It was needed for introducing market economy.

Referring to economic reforms initiated in the Soviet Union and other East European countries he said without this there could be no rule of law, democracy, fundamental rights and economic freedom.

The Finance Minister deplored that there had been misunderstandings over VAT. He said that the economy had to be made dynamic no matter. which party remained in power. Tax-evaders might also create opposition to it. But there was no alternative to expanding the tax base of the country.

He said taxes amounted to 12 and 15 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in India and Pakistan. In Bangladesh it was only eight per cent of the GDP.

He said that the government had decided to exempt some goods and services showing respect to public opinion expressed inside the Parliament as well as outside.

He clarified that VAT was applicable at the import and production stages, and not at the wholesale and retail stages. The government would see to it that tax payers were not subjected to unnecessary harassment. VAT would also be further clarified through radio and television, he assured the House.

Awami League member Salahuddin Yusuf called for postponing discussion on the bill till Wednesday to enable them to examine the exemptions, and demanded a copy of the exemption list announced by the Finance Minster.

Tofayel Ahmed of the AL said the VAT system was introduced in different countries of the world through a long process of trial and error. Citing the example of Sri

Lanka which had a 35 per cent

tax-GDP ratio, he said in creased mobilisation of internal resources was possible without VAT.

Tofayel Ahmed alleged that the Finance Minister had proposed to introduce VAT to obey instructions given at the Bangladesh Aid Consortium meeting in Paris recently.

In reply the Finance Minister said that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government was introducing VAT in keeping with its manifesto to ensure a free economy. It could not sacrifice the interest of the nation, he

He said that countries like the USSR, China and India were also now following suggestions provided by the International Monetary Fund IMF) to reform their economies.

He said that economic re forms could be opposed only those who did not like democracy to flourish Bangladesh.

Maudud Ahmed, acting leader of the Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party, demanded deferring the consideration of the bill by a day if the government did not have

compulsions. Opposition MPs Sudhangsu Sekhar Haldar, Dhirendra Devanath Sangu, Mohiuddin Ahmed of BKSAL, Shahjahan Siraj, A K M Jahangir, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury Mohammad Nasim, Sheikh Ansar Ali, A S M Firoze also

made the demand. As the Speaker proceeded inviting Opposition MPs proposing amendments to the bill to start discussion on it, MPs belonging to the AL, **BKSAL** and Communist Party staged a walk out under the leadership of Tofayel Ahmed.

They were followed by Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Shahjahan Siraj, Jatiya Party MPs, and MPs belonging to the Jamaat.

The House then passed the bill by a voice vote. The Parliament was adjourned till 4 pm today

Wednesday). See also page 6

#### Editor : S. M. Ali

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Two girls and a young man struck down by lightning in the city Tuesday. - Star photo.

# Artificial eye of LTTE mastermind seized, two Lankans held

NEW DELHI, July 9: Indian investigators have arrested two Sri Lankans and seized a glass eye worn by a Tamil rebel suspected to have masterminded Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. report agencies.

The arrests in Madras, capital of the southern coastal state of Tamil Nadu, took to 12 the number held in connection with the former Prime Minister's May 21 slaying by a woman suicide bomber.

Components of a powerful communications set, an artificial eye and several rounds of ammunition were seized from the two suspects, identified as P Vijayan and his father-in-law S Bhaskaranan, PTI said.

The artificial eye belonged to Sivarasan, the intelligence chief of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Sri

Lanka's dominant Tamil guerilla group, the agency said. Sivarasan, who has sight

only in one eye, was photographed at the town of Sriperumpudur, the assassination site, shortly before Gandhi was blown up in the bomb blast. He is the man most wanted by investigators, who have offered a reward of one million rupees (40,000 dollars) for information leading to his arrest

PTI said Vijayan and Bhaskaran had come to Tami Nadu posing as refugees a few menths ago and with Sivarasan's help rented a house in Madras, which they later used to shelter him.

When Indian detectives raided the house Monday on a tip-off, they learned that Sivarasan had left the place a

"few days ago" taking with him the communications set, a pistol and ammunition, investiga tors were quoted as saying.

Sivarasan, nicknamed "oneeyed Jack," was said to have used the set to communicate with the LTTE leadership in northeastern Sri Lanka, separated from Tamil Nadu by a narrow strip of sea called the Palk Strait

A district magistrate in the town of Chingleput in southern Tamil Nadu state ordered them held in custody for 30

The other detainees include five Indian Tamils and five Sri Lankans. Another man was taken into custody in Katmandu, the capital of neighboring Nepal, and brought to New Delhi.

More on page 5

# CU inquiry report

From Page 1 Col. 7

Chancellor to take initiative in restoring normalcy in the university and said "unless that is done, there will be recurrence of such occurrence that took place on 22.12.90. The report said "there is a

support and instigation by the teachers themselves behind the occurrence of the incident and the deadlock in the uni-

The report recommended that the teachers should be barred from taking part in any student politics. It cited that the Executive Committee of the Teachers' Association sought support of the students and other employees in their movement against the Vice-Chancellor for his alleged act

The report said that the Shibir supporting students on November 26 chopped off the hand if one Hamidur Rahman, a student of the University, but no action was taken against the terrorists. Similar incidents are in abundance, it said.

The report cited student witnesses saying that the VC in his inaugural speech in a function to celebrate the fall of Ershad said "those who were Razakars in '71 have become revolutionaries in '90." This remark aggravated the situation on campus, the report

The report observed that the news-media in Chittagong covered the December 22 incident in a partisan way. "The media intended that the culprit behind the occurrence is Islami Chhatra Shibir who assaulted certain teachers and the students, but they have not given the other side of the picture," the report said.

BSS adds: The commission has pleaded for formulation of a code of conduct for the

university teachers. The commission identified groupings and ego amongst the teachers including the Vice-Chancellor and their indirect instigation of the students for the December 22 incident and its afterward happenings."

The commission said, the university administration should always remain neutral and should take timely and appropriate disciplinary action against any act of indiscipline

either by students or by teachers. "If the university administration is able to shun their partisan approach there cannot be any such occurrences that took place on December 22", it added. Terming the attitude of the

Vice-Chancellor "questionable" the commission viewed that the Vice-Chancellor ought to have been more careful and vigilant when there was a movement for his removal which was being supported by a strong student or-

The commission contended that instead of being vigilant the Vice-Chancellor allowed the situation to go beyond control. "Had he taken timely action in the matter, there would not have been any occurrence resulting in the death of a student and injury to some teachers and the students," it added.

The commission in its report said, it is true some students participated in the occurrence causing injuries to several persons. It has to be looked into as to who instigated them or who were behind the occurrence, the report added.

The report further said, "it will be unfair to blame only the students. The 'teachers who participated in the procession and the office bearers of the teachers' association should also share the responsibilities of the occurrence.'

Terming the existing situation of the Chittagong University campus "abnormal", the commission viewed that the purpose for which the students were sent to the university is bound to be frustrated if the attitude of the teachers does not change.

Regarding the allegations of nepotism, corruption and other irregularities brought against the Vice-Chancellor by some teachers, the commission said "it is not within the scope of this commission". The commission, however, suggested to the Chancellor to appoint a high-powered committee to look into the allegations made against the Vice-Chancellor. "This will be of much help in restoring normally in the atmosphere of the university", the report

### CUCSU, APSU press for cancellation of report

CHITTAGONG, July 9: Leaders of Chittagong University Central Students Union (CUCSU) and All-Party Students Unity today called for cancellation of report of oneman commission on December 22 incident of the university. reports BSS. They alleged that the report

was one-sided creating confusion about the whole incident. In a statement here, they blamed Islami Chhatra Shibir for the whole incident and demanded punishment to the killers of student leader Faruquzzaman Faruq.

They called upon the government to ensure autonomy of the university as per University Ordinance-1973.

They blamed a section of teachers for what they said collaborating with the terrorist groups on the campus.

The signatories to the statement are, among others, CUCSU Vice-President Nazim Uddin, General Secretary Azim Uddin Ahmad, BCL (S-A) President Manjur Alam Shaheen and General Secretary Anup Khastagir. Jatiya Chhatra League President and the General Secretary Mokaddes Ali Mojumdar Shaheen and Jasim Uddin, BCU President and General Secretary Alok Barua and Nazmul Karim Dulal, Samai Tantrik Chhatra Front General Secretary Mahbubur Rahman.

### Motor workers call strike in Bogra

BOGRA, July 9: The District Motor Workers' Union has called a daylong strike in the town today (Wednesday) protesting hooliganism allegedly unleashed by BNP activists and demanding removal of the Police Super, reports UNB.

Local offices of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) and its student wing Chhatra League (N-S) were ransacked by a group of youngsters Tuesday night, police and wit-

# Bangladesh Bank options

From Page 1 Col. 8 eign banks in the capital also

on Tuesday. Many banks, in a bid to dispel confusion among the clients, are going for newspaper advertisements calling for more deposits with offers of higher interest rates.

Banking sources said immediate operations of the BCCI in Bangladesh will restore the shaken confidence of the financial institutions as a whole and maintain a balance in the export and import trade and investment.

A large number of business houses have been stuck up with normal overseas trade operations following the deadlock in the opening of the Letters of Credit (LCs) through the BCCI.

The country's garments. textile and shrimp exports are some of the sectors directly hit by the closure of the BCCI, according to knowledgeable sources.

The Bangladesh government has already communicated with the Abu Dhabi authorities, one of the principal sponsors of the BCCI Bank, for an early resumption of operations in Bangladesh.

Authoritative sources said that the Emirate government. has responded positively to the Bangladesh government pro-

According to the sources, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government is considering the issuance of an urgent call to the Organisation of the

Islamic Conference (OIC) to come to the rescue of the BCCI worldwide, one of the most vital financial institutions in the world.

If the UAE call to Muslim countries is responded to favourably, the BCCI may emerge stronger than it was before the crisis, the sources

Meanwhile, anxious depositors continued to make intense queries at the BCCI branches and booths about getting back their money.

Many queries came to The Daily Star office as well. Most of the callers wanted to know if there would be a fixed date for an opportunity to withdraw some of their stuck up money.

### Three killed by lightning

By BUET Correspondent Two girls and a young man were killed and another young man was injured by lightning

at Azimpur in the city Tuesday. Ayesha (18), Ranu (13), Hassan (20), and Khaleq (20), were returning home after offering fateha at the grave of their grandfather at the Azimpur graveyard when they were hit by lightning.
All were rushed to Dhaka

Medical College Hospital where Ayesha, Ranu and Hassan were declared dead and Khaleq was admitted, poice said.

Hassan was a caterer of Sher-e-Bangla hall of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

### Exempted goods

From Page 1 Col. 5 that cottage industries having capital investment of up to three lakh Taka would be ex empted from VAT. But the cot tage industries where excise duties were not exempted in the past, will not get the benefit of VAT exemption. The goods and services of units with annual turnover below Taka five lakh would be ex empted from the VAT.

The Minister said that the VAT would be imposed only on big and medium hotels and restaurants in the metropolitan areas and district towns, in which spoon, fork, chopstick and other aristocratic utensils are used. The roadside small restaurants and other temporary restaurants would be exempted from the VAT.

Decorators and caterers in the metropolitan and district towns will remain under VAT system, but those at upazila or villages would be exempted.

Printing of books, periodicals and educational items and the book binding business would be exempted from VAT. The VAT on sweetmeat

shops have been exempted in all the areas except metropolitan cities and district towns. Small sweetmeat shops in the metropolitan and district town areas will also get the benefit of VAT exemption.

VAT has also been in the following cases: The enterprises who rent out plant or capital machineries, the persons or enterprises who produce goods for others using raw materials supplied to them; low cost utensils made of aluminium, locally produced cotton and synthetic yarn and cloths, services rendered by cold storages, ball pens produced in the country, and scientific, equipment imported by educational institutions.

The items which have been exempted from supplementary duties are: motor cycles, tooth paste and powder, utensils made of porcelain, ceramic and China clay, perfumery goods and electric iron, coffee, soft drink, gramophone record, ceramic bricks and others.

The Finance Minister clearly mentioned that the VAT would be imposed at import and production level only The wholesale and retail sale would not come under the VAT system.

#### Soviet hostage

From Page 1 Col. 7 Assamese are being swamped by Bengali immigrants from other parts of India.

In Kashmir militants have extended for the fifth time a deadline for the execution of an Indian oil executive to force the release of their jailed colleagues.

The lkhwan-ul-Muslimeen (Islamic Brotherhood) group has said it would now wait un til 1 P.M Wednesday

#### More on page 5 Pay Commission

From Page 1 Col. 5 ment was committed to ensuring welfare of all people and development of the country.

She said the government employees are part of the government and their demands would be reviewed. The Prime Minister stressed united efforts of all to strengthen the economy and expand resource

The past autocratic regime destroyed country's socio-economic base and disrupted financial discipline, she told the trade unionists. The new democratic gov-

ernment had to start with the ruined economy, she said, seeking cooperation of the government employees in implementing policies and programmes of the government and giving democracy a granite Leaders of the Sanghati

Parishad and the Coordination Council detailed their demands and assured Begum Zia of extending all help to her government. Their demands include implementation of the Pay

rescheduling the office timing. Among the leaders were Mutalib Khan, President, and Syed Mohiuddin, Secretary General of the Sanghati Parishad, Azizur Rahim, ABM Nazir Ahmed and Shah Alam.

# The Midnight File

#### China, Iran for complete arms ban

NICOSIA, July 9: Iran and China today called for a complete ban on chemical and nuclear weapons at the end of an official visit to Tehran by Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng. A joint statement quoted by Tehran Radio also said no single power should be allowed to dominate the new international order - a reference to the United States after the collapse of communism in eastern Europe, reports Reuter.

#### Special courts to contain violence

ISLAMABAD, July 9: Pakistani officials passed two new decrees today against spreading violence in the country, authorising the creation of special courts empowered to hold summary trials. The measures will allow authorities to declare a disorderly region a "terrorist-affected area" and set up special courts empowered to reach a verdict in two weeks, the official daily Pakistan Times reported.

#### **Eggs for Election Commission**

TAIPEI, July 9: Protesters hurled 3,000 eggs today at the offices of the commission which supervises Taiwan's elections, accusing the ruling Nationalist Party of gerrymandering. "We protest against the Nationalist Party using despicable tactics to win the National Assembly elections," protest leader Chiu Chui-Chen told some 250 demonstrators, mainly members and supporters of the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party. The protesters took turns hurling the eggs at the Central Election Commission building in central Taipei, reports Reuter.

# CMM datails mattam

From Page 1 Col. 4

After adjournment of the Court Ershad requested the Attorney General Aminul Haque to allow him to see his son and daughter.

that he would make a request but said that he had nothing to do on his own.

Later briefing newsmen Attorney General Aminul Haque disclosed the reply

given by the jail authorities in

ing provided to Ershad in jail. wife Raushan Ershad met him on July 8 for an hour as per his

sented by Attorney General Aminul Haque, Deputy Attorney Generals Hasan Arif and Amirul Kabir Chowdhury, Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzak Khan, and a PP Farid Ahmed

The Defence was repre-Hazra, Jinnat Ali and Helaluddin Ahmed.

## of Taka 2.25 lakh

The Inspector General of Prisons in his reply to the Court query, gave a vivid description of the facilities pro-

The IG (Prisons) said that the 60 feet x 18 feet two-room house was renovated at a cost of Taka two lakh 25 thousand to provide adequate facilities to Ershad including a sofa set, dining table, reading table, wardrobe, an almirah and other furniture.

There are now four electric fans in the house. A low commode has been fitted in the bathroom only for his use. A visitors' room was also constructed only 32 feet away from the house. Two wardens and a prisoner have been deputed to work as his atten-

From Page 1 Col. 5

body of four class four government employees associations. held a rally at the Press Club premises and announced a fresh programme to press the demand. Besides call for implementation of the Pay Commission report, they are demanding 7.30 am to 2 pm office time.

Mosharrafuddin Ahmed President Bangladesh Gono Karmachari Sangram Parishad

After the rally, a memorandum addressed to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was submitted, the action committee leaders said.

about 12 lakh class four employees were hard hit by the price rise of essentials and the new democratic government should implement the Pay Commission report also as it was pledge bound. They would be compelled to go for action if it is not done immediately, they

The action programme includes a demand fortnight Commission report and from July 11 to 25, mobilization week from July 26 to 31, wearing of black badges from August 1 to 4.

> The programme will be followed by a grand meeting of 4th class employees in the city on August 5.

dants and cook for him. The IG (Prisons) also said that from December 12, 1990. to April 18, 1991, Ershad was detained at the Gulshan subjail and was allowed to stay along with his family members.

During that time his relatives met him 30 times while his lawyers met him 41 times. After his transfer from the Gulshan sub-jail to the Central Jail till yesterday his family

and relatives saw him five

times while his lawyers met him 13 times. Among his lawyers Mahfizur Rahman Mazumdar, Barrister Kazi Shahdat Hossain. Mosharraf Hossain Kazal and Strajul Haque met him most of the time. When he was in the Guishan sub-jail he was also visited by the former Attorney

Among his relatives

Mostafizur Rahman, Raushan Ara, Manjur Morshed, Roxana, Rezia Rahman, Mamata Wahab. Hasina Karim, F Karim, Mrs Karim and Habibur Rahman visited him.

General Rafigul Haq once.

As per the Jail Code the attendants of Ershad stay with him from 6 am to 6 pm. In the Dhaka Central Jail two Assistant Surgeons of the Jail always look after his

# Misquoting Attorney

General regrettable Chief Prosecution Counsel Attorney General Aminul Haque briefing newsmen referred to the news item published in a section of the press misquoting him on the incident that took place on July 3 in the Special Judge Court.

The report evoked protest from the Jatiya Party. "I have read the report with distress," the Attorney General told newsmen after the Court session while referring to the report published in a Bengali daily on July 4. "It's regrettable and painful, I did not expect it

from a newsman", he said. "Even Ershad did not mention anything in his letter to the Judge on July 4, against me", the Attorney General

#### Appeal on judgement in arms case

The Defence Counsel Siraful Haque yesterday filed an appeal against the judgement in Ershad's arms case in the High Court Division of the Supreme

Court. The certified copy of the judgement delivered on June 12 reached the Defence

Counsel on June 21. UNB adds: Besides the cash. more than 1000 articles, listed as personal of the accused, are yet to come before the Court.

The case filed by the Bureau

of Anti-Corruption may earn the former president a maximum of seven years' imprisonment.

# Amendment bills

From Page 1 Col. 7 Menon. Barrister Moudud Ahmed, and Sheikh Ansar Ali. In response to a question raised by National Democratic Party member Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury told the House that already there had been an atmosphere of consensus on many issues regarding Constitution amendment.

#### Indian parliament

From Page 1 Col. 7 shouted slogans in praise of

The Lok Sabha, or Lower House, has to grapple with more serious and potentially acrimonious issues beginning Wednesday when it is slated to elect its Speaker.

members of a centre-left alliance all named their candidates for Speaker after apparently failing to reach a consensus Shivraj Patil, the ruling party's nominee.

# CIVILYI details matters

seen in his rest room with a piece of bread in one hand and a tea cup in the other, said to have been supplied by his Counsels.

Aminul Haque assured him

Ershad's Chief Defence Counsel Advocate Stratul Haque also requested the Attorney General to persuade the authorities as per the desire of his client.

response to the query made by the Court on the facilities be-Ershad wrote a letter to the Judge of the Special Court on July 4, with a request to allow his wife to see him. Ershad's

request. The Prosecution was repre-

sented by Advocates Sirajul Haque, Yousuf Hossain Humayun, Barrister Kazi Shahdat Hossain, Mahfizur Rahman Mazumdar, Mosharraf Hossain Kazal, Sudhir Kumar

# House renovated at cost

vided to Ershad in fail.

# Govt employees

Action Committee,' an apex

presided over the rally.

Speakers in the rally said

#### the Hindu God Rama as the house convened in a mood of camaraderie.

Rao's Congress(I) and