

Inside Today

Article

Running from Pillar to Post Just to Pay Bills?

Column: On the Record by Shah A M S Kibria Page 4

International



Asian delegates will insist on rice before rights in world conference on human rights Page 5

Business

OPEC deal disappoints market

Budget 1993: A quick review Pages 6, 7

Living

Equals all, Of guests and disgusts, cookery and a few beauty tips Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Of Rickshaws and Ruined Lives Page 3

US-led UN planes pound Aideed's stronghold

MOGADISHU, June 12: United Nations helicopter gunships and planes pounded the Mogadishu headquarters of Somalia's main warlord General Mohamed Farah Aideed early and destroyed a radio station controlled by him, report AFP, Reuters. American AC-130 'Spectre' flying gunships also blasted four arms depots on the outskirts of Mogadishu belonging to Aideed, the warlord blamed for killing of 23 Pakistani peacekeepers a week ago. A house-to-house search for Aideed and his senior commanders was expected shortly. His whereabouts were unknown. The US-led attack - described by an official in Wash-

ington as a raid of high intensity and fairly short duration - began in darkness about 4 a.m. Flares and tracer bullets lit up the star-filled sky. The main force used was the 'Spectres' - a gun-mounted version of the slow-plying C-130 cargo plane. Four were sent to neighbouring Djibouti this week in readiness for the strike. US Defence Department officials said a second phase was expected to begin early Saturday morning when US troops were to stage a land assault against Aideed's headquarters. A statement from US Defence Secretary Les Aspin in Washington said 1,200 US troops were involved in the attack.

Aspin said the troops were members of a quick reaction force. US participation in the raid was approved by President Bill Clinton, a senior administration official said. The administration official, who requested anonymity, said Clinton was fully briefed on the raid. When dawn broke, the capital was quiet. Residents and reporters who ventured out saw no sign of Aideed's gunmen. The radio station he controlled, which often aired anti-UN broadcasts and was a flash-point of the fighting in which the Pakistanis died, was in ruins. Smoke rose from outlying

areas where Aideed's Somali National Alliance had major weapons depots. Angry youths shouting 'down with the UN' and 'down with US' surrounded journalists trying to visit bombed-out ammunition dumps and turned them back. Witnesses saw Pakistani troops open fire this morning on a crowd which gathered to protest against the UN attacks. A Somali was killed and two wounded. The United Nations depended the international air strike as necessary to stabilise a situation which was deteriorating and to enable steps to be taken toward the restoration of normal conditions. Editorial on Page 4

Khaleda sacks Nurul Huda

By Staff Correspondent

Mohammad Nurul Huda, State Minister for Establishment, resigned yesterday afternoon. Huda submitted his letter of resignation to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at 4 pm. The resignation was accepted by the President. Sources close to the Prime Minister said, Begum Zia summoned him to her office yesterday afternoon and asked him to resign immediately. Barrister Aminul Haque, State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, has been given the responsibility of the portfolio vacated by Huda. This was the first sacking of a minister from Begum Zia's cabinet which was sworn in by See Page 12 Col 4



Nurul Huda

Clinton proposes 78.95m dollar in aid for Bangladesh

By Staff Correspondent

US President Bill Clinton has proposed to Congress nearly 78.95 million dollar in aid to Bangladesh during fiscal 1994, starting October 1, 1993, according to a wire service report from Washington, reaching Dhaka Saturday. The aid package for 1994 includes 49 million dollar, development assistance (against 43.352 million in 1993), 29.1 million dollar PL 480 Title 11 (against 18.813 million dollars in 1993) and foreign military fund grants of 500,000 dollar (against none in 1993) and 350,000 dollar on other account. The Press Trust of India, in a despatch from Washington dated June 12, said that Clinton has also proposed to Congress 144.73 million dollar in aid to India during the same period. See Page 12 Col 7

7 Cambodian regions made autonomous by Hun Sen

SVAY RIENG (Cambodia), June 12: Prince Norodom Chakrapong, one of the leaders of the Phnom Penh government, announced here today the creation of an "autonomous zone" grouping seven eastern Cambodian provinces, reports AFP.

He made the announcement to about 600 people during a meeting in this city, the capital of the province of the same name, near the Vietnamese border. The provinces composing the "autonomous zone," he said, are Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kompong Cham, Kratie, Modoliri, Ratanakiri and Stung Treng.

According to Prince Chakrapong, the region has been given the name Cambodian monarch and current head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Meanwhile, the government soldiers have forced UN peacekeepers out of their offices at gunpoint from nine districts in eastern Cambodia where hard-line officials were protesting their loss of the UN-run election, a UN spokesman said today.

The peacekeepers, members of the UN civilian police force, were forced to seek refuge in the provincial capitals of Kompong Cham and Svay Rieng spokesman Eric Falt said. The two provinces have claimed to be part of a secessionist move after losing in the UN election to the opposition

FUNCINPEC Party. The Cambodians fired shots "mostly above the buildings," he said, and no injuries were reported. Some 156 civilian police were assigned to Svay Rieng, but it was unclear how many remained since threats were issued telling them to leave the province Friday, Falt said. All six districts in Svay Rieng were evacuated of UN personnel, as were three districts in Kompong Cham. In addition, Phnom Penh army trucks blocked the helipad where a UN helicopter was trying to land in Svay Rieng.

Government demonstrators had promised more violent attacks if UN personnel did not leave. Reuter adds: The UN chief in Cambodia offered today to withdraw some personnel from eastern provinces, where government soldiers have threatened peacekeeping staff at gunpoint.

Yasushi Akashi, in a statement released by UN headquarters, said he was making the offer to calm the situation in the three provinces, scene of protests by the government party over its election defeat. Akashi's statement followed a demand by head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk that the UN withdraw totally from the provinces of Kompong Cham, Prey and Svay Rieng.



Queen Elizabeth II, leaves London's Buckingham Palace Saturday for the Trooping the Colour ceremony marking the official celebration of her birthday. - AFP photo

Khaleda's letters handed over Rao assures Mostafiz of Chakmas' repatriation

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman handed over two letters from the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao at his office in New Delhi yesterday morning, according to a message received here, reports BSS. One of the letters related to an invitation from Begum Zia to Rao to pay a return visit to Bangladesh at his earliest convenience. Begum Zia had visited India in May last year. The subject of the repatriation of the Chakma refugees living in camps in Tripura was discussed. The Indian Prime Minister assured the Bangladesh Foreign Minister that all efforts would be made from the Indian side to see that the repatriation of the refugees took place as expeditiously as possible.

Mostafizur Rahman told the Indian Prime Minister that Bangladesh was willing to receive a delegation of Chakma refugees to show them the arrangements made and the facilities to be provided to them for their settlement on returning to their homes in Bangladesh. The Foreign Minister also referred to the various steps taken by the government of Bangladesh during the past year, including the setting up of an all party committee headed by the Communications Minister. The work undertaken

by this committee, included the visit to the refugee camps in Tripura last month. Present at the meeting were the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, RL Bhatia, the Indian Foreign Secretary, JN Dixit and the Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Farooq Sobhan. Later in the morning, Mostafizur Rahman called on the Indian Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh at his residence and discussed with him bilateral matters. The two ministers also discussed the possible dates for the meeting of the Joint Economic Commission of the two countries. Rahman attended a luncheon hosted for him by RL Bhatia, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

Anis replaces Atiqul Alam at Reuters By Staff Correspondent Career journalist Atiqul Alam, who was the Bureau Chief of Reuters in Bangladesh has been replaced Saturday by second man Anis Ahmed, a Reuters press release said. "This is to inform you that Atiqul Alam has left Reuters and has been replaced as See Page 12 Col 7

Turn co-op into a movement, urges PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said cooperatives is one of the main formula for eradicating poverty and called upon all to transform it into a movement, reports UNB. "Cooperative is the process of organising. We have to organise the poor," she said addressing a function organised to distribute national Cooperative Award-1991 at Osmani Memorial Hall Saturday morning. A total of 14 cooperatives and 11 individuals were given the award for 1991. The award for the organisations carried a 12-gramme gold medal and a certificate while individuals received a similar gold medal each, a certificate and prize See Page 12 Col 6

Hasina, Ghali talk Rohingya, Bosnia issues Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina yesterday held a discussion with United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali at Vienna, according to an Awami League press release here, reports BSS. Sheikh Hasina who is at present visiting Vienna yesterday attended as special guest a conference on world human rights where Ghali spoke on "World peace and the role of the United Nations." During her meeting with Ghali, Sheikh Hasina expressed See Page 12 Col 6

Warrants issued against MP Babu

By Staff Correspondent A warrant of arrest and a warrant of seizure were issued against Akhtaruzzaman Babu MP when he failed to turn up before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Saturday. Akhtaruzzaman Babu, an Awami League MP from the Chittagong-12 constituency, received a bail from the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court on May 5 following his arrest in connection with his alleged involvement in the sensational murder of leading businessman Humayun Zahir See Page 12 Col 5

NEWS BRIEFS

Diarrhoea claims 14 in Feni

FENI, June 12: Diarrhoea broke out in different areas of the district, claiming 14 lives in the last three days and attacking 500 people in a week. Official sources, however, confirmed eight dead. Among the victims, 10 died at two villages in Sonagazi thana and four others in Feni sadar thana, reports UNB.

Two killed in road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent Two persons were killed in separate road mishaps in the city Saturday. A 18-year-old garments worker Shuman was hit by a train at Nakhla para Rail Crossing. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries. In Cantonment area, an unidentified young man aged about 25 was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus.

Philippines envoy hosts reception

Ambassador of the Philippines Cesar C Pastores held a reception on the occasion of his country's Independence Day at a local hotel yesterday evening. Commerce Minister M K Anwar, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panil, heads of diplomatic missions, members of the business community, high officials and senior journalists were, among others, who attended the reception, reports BSS.

249 held under Drugs Control Act

Department of Narcotics Control has arrested 249 persons for illegal trafficking of drugs and filed 256 cases in this regard throughout the country, according to a press release here yesterday. Cases have been filed against the arrested persons under Drugs Control Act of 1990, reports BSS.

Commentary Budget: More food for thought

By S. B. Chaudhuri Columnist

This newspaper, in its initial editorial comment on the budget for fiscal '93-94, called it realistic. So it is. And yet, there are certain other aspects of the budget proposals, which might provide food for further thoughts. First, there is the low income-low saving-low investment-low growth, syndrome. Government is raising more revenue every year but also is spending more on current expenditure. The 9 per cent increase in government's revenue expenditure next year is rather disquieting. Had the expenditure been contained to a lower level, more money could have been made available for public sector investment.

Paring off highest rate of personal income tax, reduction in corporate tax, will increase disposable income and, hopefully, induce higher saving. Directing saving towards investment would still remain a problem. Under prodding from the government and the central bank, commercial banks had been bringing interest rates on deposits down continuously. This has reduced the attraction of creation of financial assets by way of bank deposits. The budget speaks of developing the capital market. However, financial instruments also have to be evolved to feed the capital market and provide medium of investment for savings. In addition to creation of

an investment-friendly environment to divert savings directly into productive uses, development of a secondary capital market should perhaps come on the top of the agenda. Is there scope for targeted approach to channel savings into investment? Available indicators on expenditure-pattern of socio-economic groups in the country show that the richer 40 per cent people living in larger municipalities, save about 18 per cent of their income and invest all of it. In contrast, larger farmers owning ten acres or more land - although saving the same proportion of their income as their urban brethren, i.e. about 18 per cent - invest See Page 12 Col 8

FBCCI hails budget but pleads for the farmers

By Staff Correspondent

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) welcomed the budget speech by the Finance Minister yesterday but said agricultural subsidy should not be withdrawn totally. The FBCCI said that although the budget had opened up the Power and Telecommunication Sectors for public investment yet the government had not declared a specific policy regarding those.

In a press conference at the FBCCI conference room in the city, its president Mahbubur Rahman welcomed the the Finance Minister's pledge to See Page 12 Col 3

Talks with PDA today Sharif rejects demand for national unity govt

ISLAMABAD, June 12: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif rejected today a demand for setting up a government of national unity, ahead of talks with the main opposition on ending confrontations with it, reports AFP. Conflicts with the opposition have to be resolved within the bounds of the constitution, Sharif told reporters in Lahore, adding that no special measures should be proposed. Negotiating teams from the government and the opposition People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), led by former premier Benazir Bhutto, are due to hold a preliminary meeting here Sunday. No agenda for the dialogue

has been announced, but the PDA has consistently insisted that only fresh elections under a government of national unity could solve the country's political crisis. Sharif, who is currently locked in a power struggle with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, initiated the process of conciliation with the opposition 11 days ago saying democratic forces should join hands to strengthen democracy. Referring to the 38-day caretaker government which was installed by Ishaq Khan after he ousted Sharif and dissolved the National Assembly on April 18, the prime minister said the people had seen the results.

Pyongyang agrees to suspend its withdrawal from NPT

NEW YORK, June 12: North Korea agreed Friday to postpone its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), averting an impending international showdown over its nuclear programme, reports AFP. The announcement came at the conclusion of talks with the United States, hours before North Korea's withdrawal from the pact was to take effect Saturday. A joint statement by Washington and Pyongyang said North Korea had agreed to "suspend as long as it considers necessary its withdrawal from the treaty."

as a positive step toward achievement of a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. But Gallucci acknowledged that the decision only postpones the resolution of the dispute over North Korea's nuclear programme. North Korean first vice-foreign minister Kang Sok Ju said the decision was made unilaterally based on his country's "legitimate rights," and indicated that US officials offered nothing concrete in return. "This is not horse trading," said Kang, how headed his country's delegation to the talks at the US mission at the United Nations. Gallucci confirmed the United States had offered no concessions. Kang said the agreement

would not lead to immediate resumption of inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which North Korea accused of lacking impartiality. Another report says: South Korea breathed a sigh of relief today at the DPRK announcement. "In order to fully resolve the nuclear issue, we emphasize once again that North Korea, as a signatory of the NPT, must faithfully comply with the terms of its nuclear safeguards agreement" and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear facilities, a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Seoul said. Meanwhile, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) welcomed today North Korea's decision.

Budget good, realistic: BNPPP

The Sangsad members of the ruling BNP at its parliamentary party meeting yesterday described the proposed budget for 1993-94 as good and realistic and discussed different aspects of the budgetary proposals, reports BSS. The meeting with the Prime Minister and the leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. The ruling party MPs thanked the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister for the presentation of such a realistic budget and reduction of the prices of the agricultural inputs including fertilizer and insecticides. Briefing newsmen after the end of the about two-hour long meeting Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Khandaker See Page 12 Col 6

Advertisement for Taka City Corporation, Dhaka. Includes logo, text in Bengali: 'ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা', 'আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন', 'আপনার শিককে টিকা দিন', 'বিজ্ঞপ্তি', 'ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন এলাকার সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, বকেয়াসহ হাল সনের সমুদয় কর আদায়ের জন্য ইতিমধ্যেই সিটি করপোরেশন অধ্যাদেশ ১৯৮৩ এর বিধান বলে প্রয়োজনীয় আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হইয়াছে। সুতরাং, সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে ৩০/৬/৯৩ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে বকেয়াসহ হাল সনের সমুদয় কর পরিশোধ করিতে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে। অন্যথায় উল্লেখিত বিধান মতে সারচার্জসহ সমুদয় পাওনা কর আদায় করা হইবে। সোলায়মান মল্লিক প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা (ভারপ্রাপ্ত) ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।