

**Inside Today**

**Article**

**India Seeks Links with ASEAN: An Asian NIC Enters Big League**

Column: Along My Way  
by S B Chaudhuri  
Page 4

**International**

**Bosnia's collective presidency set to back ethnic carveup**

**South Korea won't press North for talks on nuclear issue**  
Page 5

**Business**

**Press reports existence of secret Tory accounts, party donors**

**Govt may set up separate science, tech ministry**  
Pages 6, 7

**Feature**

**Development**

**Labour market reforms, industrial relations and productivity in Bangladesh; Meeting London's water needs; Involving youth in extension programme; Minimising social costs of economic reforms**  
Page 8

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**When Greek Meets Greek**  
Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Railway to change time-schedule**

Bangladesh Railway has decided to temporarily change the time-schedule of the inter-zonal train services in view of the rise in the water level of the river Jamuna. The changed time-schedule will take effect from July 1 and will remain in force until the fall of water level in the river, reports BSS.

**Flood situation improves in Sylhet**

SYLHET, June 27: The overall flood situation in Sylhet has improved slightly, except Zakiganj. One Moshitque Ahmed, 25, died in a boat capsized at village Motakhail of Bironi union of Zakiganj thana. With this, the number of death caused by the floods stood at 62.

**Indian tortoises seized**

RAJSHAHI, June 27: A special squad of 20 rifle battalion seized five thousand and two hundred kilograms of tortoise smuggled in from India from a Rajshahi-bound truck, at Rajabari of the district today. The BDR squad led by Nayek Md Shamsul Haque also seized the truck. Later, the tortoise and the truck were deposited to Rajshahi customs office, reports BSS.

**LDP leading in Tokyo city polls**

TOKYO, June 27: Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) maintained its strength in Tokyo city elections today, but the Kyodo news agency said its performance showed the troubled party is headed for a major setback in Japan's July 18 general elections, reports Reuter.

## Retaliation for alleged plot to kill Bush: 6 killed US missiles hit Baghdad



An Iraqi rescue worker surveys yesterday damage from the US attack on the headquarters of the Iraqi Intelligence Service (unseen, about 200 metres away) in the Al-Monsour neighbourhood in Baghdad. — AFP photo

BAGHDAD, June 27: US warships fired 23 cruise missiles at Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad early today in retaliation for an alleged plot by Iraq to assassinate its Gulf war enemy, former President George Bush, reports Reuter.

A hospital source said at least six people were killed and 10 wounded when some of the missiles slammed into a nearby residential area. Early reports from Civil Defence workers put the number of civilian dead at three.

Reporters were not immediately permitted to visit the intelligence building in the centre of the capital. Witnesses driving past the complex said two tall buildings had been severely damaged.

Journalists taken to Al-Yarmouk Hospital saw about 20 people who doctors said were injured in the attack.

President Saddam Hussein's Ruling Revolution Command Council accused the United States of "cowardly aggression."

In Washington US President Bill Clinton said he ordered

the attack after a US investigation found "compelling evidence" that a plot to kill Bush in Kuwait City on April 15 was directed by the Iraqi intelligence service.

General Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said 14 of the 450 kg missiles were fired from the destroyer Peterson in the Red Sea, and nine from the guided missile cruiser Chancellorsville in the Gulf.

General Powell said, all but

three of the 23 missiles fired hit their target.

He told CNN that the three wayward missiles landed "a few hundred meters outside the target."

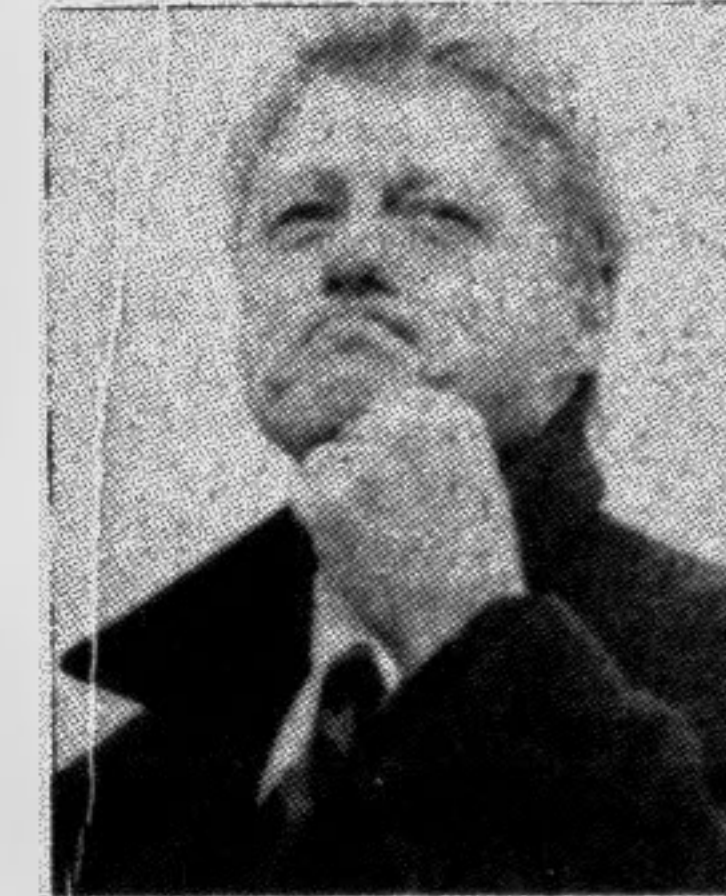
"The front wing of Iraqi intelligence headquarters was pretty much destroyed and that was our intention," Powell said.

"I wouldn't say that we have knocked it [intelligence headquarters] out," he said "but we

See Page 12 Col 1



Saddam Hussein



Bill Clinton

**Clear success, says Clinton**

WASHINGTON, June 27: President Bill Clinton said today his punitive missile strike against Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad had been a clear success, despite civilian casualties, reports Reuter.

"It is clear that it was a success," Clinton said before entering a church near the White House. "I feel quite good about what transpired and I think the American people should feel good about it."

Asked about the civilian casualties, Clinton said, "I regret that very much... I'm always sorry when there is a loss of life but also remember that we were trying to avoid killing civilians" by the timing and precision of the raid.

He said that if an Iraqi attack against former President George Bush had been carried out, hundreds of civilians would have been killed.

Clinton said in contrast the US attack had resulted in a "minimal loss of life and we sent the message we wanted to send."

**Another test for the UN: Iraq**

BAGHDAD, June 27: President Saddam Hussein met with his Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) and the regional command of the ruling Baath Party today to review the US cruise missile strike on Baghdad, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported, says Reuter.

It said urgent action was taken to care for the injured and those whose homes were damaged by "the US criminal and terrorist aggression against Iraq."

The missile attack would be "another test" for the United Nations against "the recurrent acts of aggression which the United States commits against the people of the world," BBC quoted a statement of the RCC as broadcast by Iraqi radio.

**Awami League lacks democratic values: Dr Kamal**

Dr Kamal Hossain, Convenor of Bangladesh Democratic Forum deplored the attack by a section of Awami League leaders and supporters on a meeting of the Forum at the Faridpur Bar Association Hall Saturday, reports BSS.

Addressing a crowded press conference here yesterday afternoon at the Forum central office Dr Hossain sharply criticised the anarchist conduct of a political party on the meeting being held in preparation of the forthcoming national conference of the Forum.

See Page 12 Col 7

### Budget to reduce dependence on foreign aid: Saifur

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday asserted in Parliament that the proposed budget for the fiscal 1993-94 would definitely help the nation reduce its dependence on foreign aid.

Backing his contention, the Finance Minister told the House that the budgetary provisions had been designed to ensure increased mobilisation of domestic resources, create employment opportunities, develop human resources and alleviate poverty.

The Finance Minister was giving his winding up speech yesterday following a 16-day general discussion on the proposed budget. The Finance Minister placed the budget in the House on June 10 and more than 200 members of both the treasury and opposition benches took part in the discussions.

In his 145 minutes speech, Saifur Rahman refuted several opposition criticisms against

the proposed budget that came up in the House during the general debate spreading over 32 sittings of Parliament.

Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition, had delivered her speech on the budget immediately before the Finance

#### JS takes up Finance Bill

Jatiya Sangsad last night took up for consideration the Finance Bill, 1993, which seeks to give effect to fiscal measures proposed by the Finance Minister in the budget for 1993-94 and amend certain acts, reports UNB.

The Bill seeks to amend certain provisions in the Stamp Act, 1899; the First Schedule of Bengal Act, 1963; the Wealth Tax Act, 1963; the Customs Act, 1969; the Finance Act, 1980; the Income Tax Ordinance of 1984; and the VAT Act, 1991.

Minister addressed the House in the morning sitting of the Jatiya Sangsad.

Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia was present in Parliament during the Finance Minister's speech.

Saifur's speech, alternating between Bangla and English, was punctuated with humorous comments evoking frequent cheers and laughter from both benches.

Commenting on the nature of the opposition criticisms, the Finance Minister said that those were not based on proper statistics; rather they were basically rhetorical. "Rhetorics do not help improve a proposed budget," Saifur observed.

Defending the government's economic policy, the Finance Minister told the House that the foreign exchange reserved had been increased, the rate of inflation reduced and revenue

See Page 12 Col 3

### Hasina rejects proposed budget

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday rejected the proposed national budget for the fiscal 1993-94 saying that it had failed to provide any ray of hope or a sense of direction to achieve national progress, reports agencies.

Speaking in parliament in the morning on the national budget, the Awami League chief said there was no relevance between the budget speech of the Finance Minister and the reality prevailing in economic, social and political life of the people.

"His (Finance Minister's) speech contained no direction for future. His speech is but lullaby, stereotype and monotonous, and we reject it," said the opposition leader amidst thumping of desks from her side of the House.

She said that in one hand the Finance Minister had claimed no imposition of new taxes while on the other he was taking preparations for imposing fresh taxes through

See Page 12 Col 6

### US allies support raid, several states deplore

UNDATED, June 27: World reaction to the US raid on Iraq was mixed today with Russia saying the pre-dawn cruise missile strike on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad was justified, reports AFP.

But several other countries, including Malaysia, Iran and Sudan condemned the attack as an act of terrorism while the Syrian-based Radical Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) called on all Arabs to "join together to rebuff the aggressors."

In a communique released in Cairo, the Arab League said it "strongly deplored" the attack and warned against the risks of using military means without the approval of the UN Security Council.

The US attack, in retaliation for an alleged Iraqi plot to assassinate former President George Bush in Kuwait in April, was aimed at Iraq's intelligence headquarters in a residential area in Baghdad.

The Iraqi leadership, which has denied any involvement in the alleged assassination

plot, said many civilians were killed in the attack that marked the Clinton administration's first strike against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and also its first unilateral military operation.

The Security Council in New York was to hold an emergency meeting today at the request of the United States which wants to explain the raid on Iraq.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said today that the US actions are justified because they flow from the state's individual and collective right to self-defense.

Britain, Israel, Germany, Austria and Australia also voiced support for the US move with British Prime Minister John Major saying "the USA were entirely right and I fully support their action of self-defense."

The US attack, in retaliation for an alleged Iraqi plot to assassinate former President George Bush in Kuwait in April, was aimed at Iraq's intelligence headquarters in a residential area in Baghdad.

The Iraqi leadership, which has denied any involvement in the alleged assassination

See Page 12 Col 1

**Unprecedented ruling by Speaker**

### JS committee to probe charges against Majid

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali Sunday ordered the formation of a parliamentary committee to investigate allegations of corruption brought against Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Huq.

"Since both treasury and opposition benches demand a probe into the matter, I decide that a committee be formed," the Speaker announced amid thumping of desks by both opposition and ruling BNP members.

The Speaker sought eight names each from the opposition and treasury benches by

today (Monday) to announce the committee on Tuesday.

In the morning session on Saturday senior Awami League member Tofael Ahmed brought a number of corruption charges in the House against Irrigation Minister M Majid-ul-Huq.

Later, in the afternoon session the minister, rising on a point of personal clarification, challenged the AL member by saying: "If the charges are proved, I will resign from the cabinet."

Tofael Ahmed instantly took up the challenge and said: "If I fail to prove the allegations, I

myself will resign from Parliament."

Tofael and opposition Chief Whip Md Nasim had demanded formation of a parliamentary committee to probe the charges. The opposition demand was not objected to by the ruling party Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and the Speaker ended the matter Saturday by deferring a decision until yesterday.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni hastily adjourned the House for five minutes at 8.45 pm yesterday when discussion on the Finance Bill

See Page 12 Col 6

### Duty on powdered milk raised, books exempted

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday proposed 15 per cent incentive to exporters of garments produced with local handloom fabrics to promote backward linkage in the garments industry, reports UNB.

The proposal came during his speech winding up the general debate on the budget in parliament.

He also proposed seven and half per cent duty waiver on all kinds of books excepting fiction.

The Finance Minister however raised the duty on powdered milk to 45 per cent from 30 per cent proposed in the original budget and reimposed 30 per cent duty on silk to give protection to the domestic silk.

### 'Budget goals easier to achieve'

Star Report



Mujibur Rahman

State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman feels unlike previous years, it would be easier to achieve the goals of the proposed budget for 1993-94.

"The new Annual Development Programme (ADP) will really help develop the peoples lot," the State Minister said.

He was talking to The Daily Star in an exclusive interview prior to the Finance Minister's budget winding up speech.

When his attention was drawn to the below performance with regard to outgoing ADP, the State Minister said after inheriting a ruined

economy, the government had to go through a transition period when the implementation rate was rather low.

"But we have come out of that transition period. That's why our ADP size for the coming year is over a thousand crore taka higher than the outgoing years ADP outlay," Mujibur Rahman contended.

"The main bottleneck in project implementation was delay in execution of the projects," Rahman pointed out and stated that his personal experience right now is that works are being executed in

time. The State Minister observed that the government would be able to go a great way forward with financial sector reforms and the budget's projected revenue receipt target would be achieved.

Elaborating on the financial reform point, Rahman said the financial institutions are now getting quick decrees against cases which have been pending in courts for years to gether.

In 1992, the Sonali Bank got about 200 decrees against

See Page 12 Col 8

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**BOARD OF INVESTMENT**

**Prime Minister's Office**

Shilpa Bhaban, 91, Motijheel Commercial Area  
Dhaka-1000.

### SPECIAL FACILITIES FOR INVESTORS

Board of Investment offers the following services and assistance to local and foreign investors:

- Investment counselling.
- Registration for institutional and infrastructural facilities and utility services.
- Company formation and capital issue.
- Work permits to foreign expatriate personnel.
- Assistance in quickly obtaining of the various incentives given to the investors by the government.

DFP(G)-10475-26/6

G-867