now in private hands

By Staff Correspondent

The Chittagong Cement Clinker Grinding Company Limited (CCCGC), which made a profit of Tk 25.10 crore in the last seven years, was handed over to private ownership yesterday.

Industries Secretary A M M Abdul Hye handed over the certificates of 51 per cent government share of the company to its buyer Mohammad Abu Tayab, Chairman of the TK Oil Refinery, Chittagong, at a function held at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC). Abu Tayab bought the shares for a sum of approximately Tk 36 crore.

In 1986, 34 per cent shares of the company were sold among the people through the share market while the rest 15 per cent belonged to its staff.

The function was attended, among others, by resident representative of the World Bank Christopher Willoughby, Additional Secretary of Industries Ministry Ataul Karim, Chairman of BCIC Waseq Al-Azad, Directors of the BCIC, Directors of the company and other high officials.

The Industries Secretary said the objective of the government was to expand the base of ownership through disinvestment of public enterprises. He said the government had adopted the policy not because of losses incurred by public enterprises but because

of an overriding need for rapid

industrialisation He also said that the public sector corporations like the BCIC would have to come for ward to build new industrial units, operate them profitably and then transfer those to the private sector on the BOT (build, operate and transfer) concept.

Christopher Willoughby appreciated the government's implementation of the disinvestment policy and said i would help the country achieve rapid industrial growth.

The Chittagong Cement Clinker Grinding Company Limited, the only one of its kind in the country, with an annual production capacity of 2.50 lakh tonnes of cement, started commercial operation in 1974. Since its inception, the factory relied on clinker the main raw material — from Malaysia. But with Malaysia going for its own cement production, the factory had to gradually diversify its sources for clinker and presently also imports it from Morocco.

Located on the bank of the river Karnaphuli, the factory was transferred to the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation in 1985-86. The factory made its maximum profit - Tk 9.05 crore - in 1988-89. In 1991-92 the company made a profit of Tk 7.35 crore.

US allies support raid

From Page 1 Col 7

the legality of the attack. We believe that where necessary, any action against lraq should be governed strictly by decision of the United Nations,' he said

The Austrian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that 'Austria hopes the US action will be seen as a clear sign in the fight against international terrorism.

France voiced eautious support for the attack with a Foreign Ministry statement saying, 'France understands the reaction of the United States,' but 'does not know, at present, the effects of the operations.

Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer said he expects irag's reaction 'if there is one, to be limited.

Kuwaitis also hailed the US attack but an opposition MP Abdel Mohsen Jamal, said 'the ideal solution would be to eliminate the Iraqi regime and its president Saddam Hussein.

Jamal warned that Iraq was bound to try and make propaganda gains out of the latest at

Turkey expressed support today for the US missile at tack but said the fight against 'terrorism' should be extended to help Muslims in Bosnia.

The Foreign Ministry said Clinton telephoned Turkish counterpart Suleyman Demirel and Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on Saturday to tell them of the retaliation plan.

Egypt today adopted a critical stand on the issue wondering why Washington doesn't adopt a similar attitude in dealing with the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Iranian Parliament, meanwhile, condemned the attack 'as flagrant aggression' and warned that Washington

From Page 1 Col 7

certainly have delivered a very

damaging blow to the head

But Powell acknowledged

"At least three of the mis-

the three missiles that missed

siles went wide of their mark

and produced some civilian ca-

sualties. We regret that,

sky, followed by the wail of

sirens as the terrain-hugging

Explosions lit up the night

In Al-Mansour, one o

Baghdad's smartest areas and

the site of the intelligence

centre, three houses were

demolished. The missiles

blasted craters 10 meters

moving the aircraft carrier

Theodore Roosevelt from the

Mediterranean to the Gulf as a

"precautionary measure"

against any retaliation from

ted the "collateral damage" but

it was "nothing compared with

collateral damage Saddam Hu-

sscin was planning ... to possi-

bly kill a former President of

Powell told CNN he regret-

Powell said the navy was

quarters of that operation."

caused civilian casualties.

Powell said.

missiles hit.

was to blame for any repercus-

We ask all nations to wake up to the reality of American's neo-expansionism, because the egotism of the US politicians could bring the world to the bring of a war, a government statement said.

Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussein Abou Saleh also condemned and attack saying it amounted to 'terrorism'.

Predominantly-Muslim Malaysia expressed deep regret at the US action with several Muslim movements in the country saying the attack was an attempt by Washington to divert world attention from its failed policy in dealing with the Yugoslav conflict. In Jordan, Crown Prince

Hassan Ibn Talar expressed his 'bitterness and sadness' following the US raid.

I'm grateful to Clinton: Bush

WASHINGTON, June 27: Former President George Bush said today he supported his successor Bill Clinton's decision to launch a missile attack on Baghdad, reports AFP. "I support the action taken

by President Clinton," Bush said in a statement released through former National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft. "I am very grateful to the

President for his calling me yesterday to inform me of his decision.

"Clearly, I strongly support the men and women in our armed forces," Bush said.

A senior administration official said Clinton called Bush just minutes after the attack and that Secretary of State Warren Christopher had briefed Bush earlier Saturday.

Clinton talked with Bush for about 45 minutes, Scowcroft

Clinton said the United

"From the first days of our

States could not have let an as-

sassination plot against Bush

revolution, our security has

depended on the clarity of this

message: "Don't tread on US,

Clinton said in a television ad

"Saddam has repeatedly vio-

lated the will and conscience

of the international commu-

nity, but this attempt at re-

venge by a tyrant against the

leader of the world coalition

that defeated him in war is

particularly loathsome and

Aspin, justifying the unilateral

use of force, said the United

States had exercised its right

of self-defence under Article

51 of the United Nations

in no way diminished US sup-

port for coalition action or for

the authority of the UN," he

told a briefing at the Pentagon.

meet later today to hear the

US reasons for the attack.

The United Nations was to

"Tonight's unilateral action

Defence Secretary Les

cowardly," he said.

Charter.

Editor: S. M. Ali

Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motificel

C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36

Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices:

House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R/A., Dhaka-1205. PABX

500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035

GPO Box No. 3257, GRAM : DAILY STAR DHAKA

the United States."

go unanswered.

Missiles hit Baghdad

HC grants Raushan Petitions seeking **Presidential** Ershad bail clemency for Munir filed A High Court Division Berich and order of the Special

yesterday granted bail Begum Raushan Ershad who was earlier convicted and sentenced by a special court to suffer simple imprisonment for seven years in a corruption

Leaders of Japanese opposition parties shake hands yesterday in Tokyo prior to talks on

cooperation in July 18 general elections and a coalition government after the elections. From

left are: Democratic Socialist Party Chairman Keigo Ouchi, Social Democratic Party

Chairman Sadao Yamahana, Shinseito Representative Tsutomu Hata, Komeito Chairman

Koshiro Ishida and Social Democratic Federation Representative Satsuki Eda. - AFP photo

case, reports BSS. The bench comprising Justice Habibur Rahman Khan and Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim directed appellant-petitioner Raushan Ershad to furnish bail bond of taka seven lakh to the Deputy

Commissioner, Dhaka. After delivery of the order, petitioner's counsel Moudud Ahmed stood up and prayed for an advance bail order to re lease Raushan Ershad. The court, however, refused Moudud's prayer.

Thereafter Attorney General Aminul Hug stood up and prayed for staying the execution of the bail order passed vesterday for two weeks to enable the government to file provisional application for leave to appeal (stay petition) before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. But the court rejected his appeal.

In the corruption case, better known as the Janata Tower Case: Raushan Ershad, her husband H M Ershad and 17 others were convicted by the the Special Judge, Dhaka on June 7 on charges of corruption and abuse of power. Begum Raushan Ershad filed an appeal along with a bail prayer before the High Court Division against the judgement

Tk 11.16 cr JU budget

By JU Correspondent With the deficit of Tk 38.6 lakh, a total of Tk 11 crore 16 lakh budget for 1993-94 of the

Jahangirnagar University was

announced at its annual senate

meeting yesterday.

Judge, Dhaka. The High Court Division Bench, after hearing for two days at length, admitted the appeal petition and granted Raushan Ershad bail only on the ground of illness and old age though she did not file any medical certificate in support of her bail prayer.

It is gathered from the Attorney General's office that the government will file an application for leave to appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the order of the High Court Division. The Attorney General's office is preparing to move for the same expeditiously.

Khandker Mahbub Hossain Moudud Ahmed and Azizul Huq appeared on behalf of Raushan

700 trucks stranded at Benapole

From Our Correspondent JESSORE, June 27: At least seven hundred Indian trucks loaded with goods are stranded at Benapole for the last seven days following refusal by labourers to off-load those, said a source.

It is learnt that the instruction of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) to the Indian drivers not to tip the local labourers created the impasse.

Sources said that a similar situation was prevailing on the Indian side at Petrapole.

As such, perishable goods including onions, fruits and eggs are rotting, causing financial loss to importers, according to witnesses. Delay in releasing chemical

items has also affected productions in mills specially, in the North Bengal Paper Mills at Paksey, sources said.

ernment was aware of its re-

sponsibility to rehabilitate the

take responsibility for those

units that deliberately want to

remain sick," the minister said

ernment had succeeded in

realising 400 crore out of a to-

tal Tk 738 crore in outstand-

ing loans to 100 big defaulters.

grievance relating to the poor

performance in ADP imple-

mentation, the Finance

Minister assured the House

that the implementation ma-

chinery had been geared up to

ensure better utilisation of

get, the Finance Minister said

the country's defence needs to

be strengthened. One should

remember that no friend or

of the budget by the Leader of

the Opposition Sheikh Hasina,

who rejected the budget as a

'hoax and bluff', the Finance

Minister said: It was not in

conformity with the dignity of

the Leader of the Opposition."

"I'm constrained to say that

Referring to the criticisms

Defending the defence bud-

funds in future.

foe is permanent.

Replying to an opposition

"We would not, however,

sick industries.

260 crore.

ISLAMABAD, June 27 Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan here today in a bid to solve the country's political crisis, official sources said, reports AFP.

It was the first meeting between the two men since the president dissolved the National Assembly and sacked Shartf on April 18, moves which were later reversed by the country's Supreme Court. There was no immediate

comment from either side on the talks.

Corruption case filed against Anwar Hossain, MP By Staff Correspondent

A case has been filed against former Communications Minister and a Jatiya Party leader Anwar Hossain Manju, MP on charge of corruption, police

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption yesterday filed the case with Ramna police accusing Anwar Hossain and Fazlur Rahman, Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Division, of misappropriating Tk 6.60.23,000 from the Bartsal Jhalakathi-Rajbari-Bhandaria road construction project during the Ershad regime.

The case was lodged under Section 5 (2) of the Anti-Corruption Act.

JS committee

From Page 1 Col 4 1993 was on.

Speaker All, who took the chair at 8.55, announced the decision, hailed by many MPs as an 'historic decision'.

He said that under Article 55 of the Constitution the ministers are accountable to Parliament. The accountability of the government would be proved by such a committee which would also help in the institutionalisation of democracy, the Speaker observed.

The Irrigation Minister was not present in the House during the announcement but Tofael Ahmed was there. Neither the Leader of the House Prime Minister Khaleda Zia nor Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina were present.

The opposition Chief Whip, taking the floor, said he would submit eight names today and proposed that the Speaker be the chairman of the commit-

Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury also thanked the Speaker for taking such a bold decision and assured cooperation of his

Local Government Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder and Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah also thanked the Speaker for the decision, while from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, Suranjit Sen Gupta and Rashed Khan Menon thanked the Speaker for the decision, unprecedented in the country's parliamentary history.

MOGADISHU, June 27: Two American soldiers with the United Nations forces in Somalia were shot and wounded in

Two US soldiers shot in Somalia

the capital Mogadishu this afternoon. One of the wounded men told reporters from his field hospital bed that they had been clearing a roadblock in the south Mogadishu stronghold of fugitive warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed when they came under fire, reports AFP.

Opposition plans to unseat Japanese ruling party

TOKYO, June 27: Five Japanese opposition parties agreed today to coordinate their fight to unseat the Liberal Democrate in July 18 elections, and to form a coalition government if they won. The accord was reached at a meeting held by the top leaders of the main opposition Social Democratic Party, Kometito Democratic Socialist Party. United Social Democratic Party and Shinseito, reports AFP.

Sant Sammelan demand worries Babri Masjid Movement body

NEW DELHI, June 27: The Babri Masjid Movement Coordination Committee (BMMCC) today expressed concern over the demand by "Sant Sammelan" at Hardwar that the disputed site in Ayodhya be handed over by Vijay Dashami for construction of Ram Temple. In a statement the committee convener Syed Shahabuddin alleged that the Sammelan was prehestrated by the leaders at large of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad" and also drew the attention of the government to the Sangh Parivar's "threat to open new fronts" in Mathura and Varanasi, reports PTI.

Dr Kamal deplores

· From Page 1 Col 8 Dr Kamal said a group of 40

to 50 miscreants, led by Farid pur district Awami League leaders and workers in a light ning attack foiled the meeting. The attackers armed with bricks, lathis, iron rods and other lethal weapons ransacked the bar association building.

In a written statement Dr Kamal said at least three persons including Engineer Abul Kasem, Advocate Arzoo and correspondent of Bangla daily 'Samachar' Amir Ali were injured during the incident. The written statement was read out by senior Forum leader Barrister Amirul Islam. Dr Kamal Hossain said this

unfortunate incident in Farid pur is a matter of deep concern for future of democracy in the country, particularly because of absence of democratic values and practice on the part of a political party like Awami League. He said the way a section of its leadership is seeking to make politics and the people hostage to illegal money and weapons cannot be supported by any conscientious citizen. Such incident can bring about a deep crisis in the life of the nation, he said.

The Forum leader demanded immediate arrest of the "known culprits" of the incident and their punishment under law. He said the attackers, who

later held a "protest meeting", presided over by district Awami League General-Secretary Bipul Ghos and addressed, among others, by Habibur Rah man Habib, Mohammad Faruq Ziaul Hassan Mithu and Animesh Roy, should not be spared under any pretext by the administration and the law enforcing agencies.

Describing the attack on a bar association hall as "unpre-

cedented and alarming", Dr Kamal said that the Saturday's attack proved that despite being a big party Awami League was "suffering from serious ailments".

Asked, still as an Awami Leaguer, whether he would lodge complaints with the party chief Sheikh Hasina about the incident, Dr Kamal requested the correspondents to draw their own conclusion and said such an incident was unheard off.

He declared that despite the attack on the Forum, their activities would continue and the national conference would be held in due course. But he said he would be out of the country, to preside over a Commonwealth human rights consultative advisory committee meeting in Cyprus from July 1 to 5.

Replying to questions, he stated that he was earnestly trying to minimise his foreign trips with a view to giving more time to the Forum's ac-

In reply to a question on certain newspaper's report of his recent meeting with the Prime Minister, Dr Kamal said that he went to meet the Prime Minister at Sugandha in connection with an urgent demand of the Bar Association. He said he was persuaded by the concerned quarters to meet the Prime Minister to explain the demands.

Interview

From Page 1 Col 5 loan cases, the Janata Bank

160 and Agrani Bank 150 decrees, Rahman claimed and added that the Krishi Bank has disposed of 15,000 certificate cases after the BNP's coming to power. Commenting on the non-

mention of the sick industries issue in the budget, Rahman said the sick units are to be financed by the banks and not by the government itself. The banks will examine their viability and the chances

of getting back the loans before taking any decision,' Mujibur Rahman said. "The government will not

order any bank to give a loan; the banks will exercise their own discretion. But I want to say that I have not yet received any complaints from any potentially viable sick industry owner who had been refused loans by the banks," he stated categorically. When asked about the logic

behind imposing duty on book imports, Rahman said this was done to discourage unnecessary imports as well as to develop the country's own publishing industry. Touching on the agriculture

sector, the minister observed that the country's agriculture cannot remain dependent on subsidy for ever.

"We have taken steps to ensure cheap and timely supply of loans and inputs to the farmers," Rahman stated and said the government had already lowered the price of fertiliser by Tk 500 per ton.

He also said there was a "gulf of difference" between the economists and farmers estimates of production cost of

He also claimed that the

government's policy on agri-

culture had resulted in bumper production and Bangladesh has now become self-sufficient in "Despite many natural disasters the farmers proved to be

efficient with the help of our inputs and financial supports," he maintained. Mujibur Rahman said the budget has been directed at

growth. "For this we allowed con-

The opposition leader also criticised the absence of the Leader of the House Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia from the House yesterday and her reticence to opposition , queries about the government.

ted by the Finance Minister to the people, she added.

adding the government would be supporting only those units which could be made viable. He informed the House that 515 applications had been received from sick units, of which 128 had already been rehabilitated at a cost of Tk

reviving the economy.

Turning to the industrial sector, Hasina rebuked the ruling party for its failure to set up new industries and rehabilitate the sick units in the last three years. On the contrary, she said, the government has planned retrenchment of industrial workers and sale of mills and factories worth about Tk 100 to 200 crore at a price of only Tk 4 to 5 crore.

consciousness of responsibility ternational market.

enhance his image befooling Hasina said the economy had stagnated, investment sagged, and production slowed down as the government failed to create a favourable climate

Saifur Rahman informed the Jatiya Sangsad that the gov-

the important fronts of socio-

agri- credit at ease.

sector, the opposition leader said once Bangladesh used to export 2.5 crore bales of the 'golden fibre' and control the international jute market. But wrong policy of the government and prescription of the World Bank and IMF are destroying the jute sector in a planned way to allow India and Pakistan to dominate the in-

Saifur winds up discussion Hasina rejects budget Finance Minister said the gov-

From Page 1 Col 4 earnings significantly increased during the last three years of BNP rule.

By Staff Correspondent

seeking Presidential clemency

were filed Thursday on behalf

of Munir Hossain alias Suruj

condemned to death for mur-

One prayer was filed by the

parents of Munir to the

President through the Home

Ministry while the other was

filed by the condemned him-

self and submitted to the

Hossain were not available for

condemned prisoner said that

the petitions pleaded for

mercy from the President on

grounds of young age of Munir

(now 33, according to his

lawyers) and that he had al-

ready served four long years in

being scrutinised by the Home

Supreme Court on June 20

rejected Munir's review peti-

tion and upheld the death sen-

tence passed by the District

and Sessions Judge, Dhaka in

SKOP leaders

meet today

By Staff Correspondent

mik Karmachari Oikya Pari-

shad (SKOP) meet this mor-

ning at its Topkhana Road

office to deliberate on a fresh

agitational programme, sour-

to meet with the joint body of

the Jute-Textile-Yarn-Sugar

Mills Workers' Federations on

June 28 to finalise an identical

programme which is likely to

be announced on June 30.

The SKOP is also scheduled

Central leaders of the Sra-

Munir's application was now

A Full Bench of the

the condemned cell.

The parents of Munir

However, lawyers of the

dering his wife.

prison authorities.

comments.

Ministry.

ces said.

Two separate petitions

Refuting the opposition allegation that the budget lacked a sense of direction, the minister said, it was very clear that the budget, prepared with a long-term vision, aimed at meeting the challenge of development by many means, including boosting the country's exports and mobilising domes-

tic resources at a higher rate. The minister claimed that the government had achieved success on almost every front

and in every sector. Listing the achievements, he said, the financial sector reforms were on, reforms in he laws relating to trade and business had been initiated improved education, health and employment opportunities were being created for all, especially for the women.

Quoting different newspaper reports on the budget's sense of direction, the minister regretted: "It is unfortunate that Parliament members belonging to the opposition bench had failed to see the budget's sense of direction which was clear to the journalists and intellectuals of the so-

Refuting an opposition criticism that the government has withdrawn subsidy from the agriculture sector, the Finance Minister said, no subsidy has been withdrawn. Rather the budgetary provisions would definitely help reduce prices of a large number of agricultural inputs. Talking about the government's commitment to the interests of the peasants, Saifur reminded the opposi-

tion of the exemption of a total of Tk 2,500 crore in agricultural loans in the first year of BNP rule. Referring to the opposition criticism that the budget was designed on the advice of the

World Bank (WB), the Finance Minister said, "There is nothing wrong in taking good suggestions from the World Bank." He added that the WB was a collective bank belonging to many countries, including Bangladesh.

He, however, informed the House that the government never accepted any WB suggestion which the cabinet felt would be detrimental to the national interests. "We refused to go by the WB suggestions in operating a few projects, especially in the energy and power

Refuting the allegation that there was no investment under BNP rule, the Finance Minister said. Tk 508 crore investment sanction had been made between July 1992 and May this year, while Tk 293 crore had already been disbursed among the investors.

The minister, in this connection, told the House that there was a minus investment of Tk 400 crore in the 1988-89 fiscal and minus Tk 610 crore in 1989-90. Quoting Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Saifur also said that contribution of domestic resources to the Annual Development Programme (ADP) was one per cent while it was 25 per cent in the current fiscal. "Even then, as a responsible government, the BNP cannot go for spurious investment, as was done during the Ershad

Saifur Rahman added: "We cannot gamble with public money.

regime," Saifur affirmed.

criticism of the "golden handshake" programme, the Finance Minister said that the nation could no longer afford to keep the wheels of the sick and unprofitable trades and industries running at the cost of the tax-payer's money. On sick industries, the

was lacking in her speech." Saifur regretted that the Referring to the opposition

taken in this budget."

Leader of the Opposition and some other members had turned a Nelson's eye to the good things of the new budget and said he was undone if they had turned a blind eye to the visions, political philosophy and steps and measures under-

From Page 1 Col 5 Statutory Revenue Order (SRO). Such a tactic, was adop-

and confidence to let the economy move because of its inefficiency and mismanage-

In her 75-minute deliberation, the opposition leader portrayed a dismal picture on economic life and blamed the ruling BNP for failing to meet people's basic needs as well as

She demanded that prices of fertilizer, seeds and pesticides be slashed to half, diese price be refixed at Tk 7 per litre and the ceiling of land brought down to the previous 2 and a half acres from the proposed 5 acres so that small and marginal farmers could get

On the condition of jute

"You (Finance Minister) may earn certificates from World Bank and IMF for implementing their prescription, but it will not bring good to the people of this country," she reminded.

The opposition leader turned down government claim of three per cent inflation rate as a "bluff." "How this figure can be accepted when prices of essentials starting from salt to fish are going up?" she asked. Focusing on the budgetary

measures in education sector, the opposition leader demanded implementation of the Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda Commission recommendations for a uniform education system and increasing the rate of literacy by providing adequate financial and logistic supports to teachers and students. Hasina opposed the intro-

duction of import duty on for-

eign books, saying it is a viola-

tion of the agreement with UNESCO. She said the rate of literacy was 26 per cent in 1973 and wanted to know why it dropped in the last 22 years. Turning to the political front, the opposition leader accused the ruling party of persecuting the opposition by abusing power and denying

people their democratic right

to organise meetings and pro-

cessions. Referring to the resignation of State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda following charges of corruption, Hasina said the Prime Minister herself is in charge of that ministry. "If Nurul Huda is sacked for corruption, why the Prime Minister also not be brought under similar charges," she questioned.

making the country's economy export-oriented for a quick

vertibility of the taka on trade accounts." Rahman pointed out without mentioning from when the convertibility would come into effect.

Sharif meets The Midnight Eile Cement Clinker factory Ishaq