Royal rift

formalised

Duke and Duchess of York.

Queen Elizabeth's second son

Prince Andrew and the flame-

haired Sarah Ferguson, for-

mally separated today, reports

spokesman said the estranged

couple, two of the Royal House

of Windsor's most conspicuous

socialites, had completed dis-

cussions with lawyers but no

details of the arrangements

They are now formally

separated and they will con-

tinue to lead their own lives,

he added. "Their Royal

Highnesses remain the closest

of Friends and in the interests

of their children will spend as

much time as practical to-

The couple have two daugh

The spokesman said the

ters, Princesses Beatrice and

couple wished to end recent

speculation of a reconciliation,

describing such conjecture as

Both were aged 26 when

they married in 1986, with

reports of strains in their rela-

tionship emerging within

weeks due to the duke's long

absences abroad as a British

served in the 1982 Falklands

Buckingham Palace an

nounced their separation in

March 1992. Five months

later, many Britons were scan

dalised by photographs pub

lished in national newspapers

showing an American male

friend kissing the topless

Duchess's toes while on holi-

SKOP-labour feds

From Page 1 Col 8

the proposed programme was

the sticking point during yes-

terday's talks between the

SKOP and the jute-textile-

The SKOP central leaders

reportedly were in favour of

programmes such as strike,

rail-road blockades, sieges and

sit-ins. Most SKOP leaders

were of the view that the fresh

programme's duration should

at 10 yesterday morning, was

adjourned at 7.15 pm to re-

tions of the jute-textile-yarn-

sugar sectors workers' unions

had deferred announcement of

a 96-hour nationwide shut-

down Saturday following an

understanding with the SKOP

that both sides would declare

identical programmes tomor-

DU campus

From Page 1 Col 5

Dhaka Medical College

Meanwhile, the BCL (M-I

brought out a procession and

held a rally at the Teachers

Students Centre (TSC) road

crossing vesterday afternoon to

DMCH Correspondent adds:

Later he was taken to the

yesterday at about 11 am.

Hospital, sources said.

protest the attack.

sume at 10 this morning.

The meeting which started

The grouping of four federa-

not exceed 48 hours.

yarn-sugar labour federations.

The nature and duration of

day in the south of France.

war Prince Andrew now com

mands his own warship.

A helicopter pilot who

Eugenie, aged five and three.

would be made public.

gether as a family."

'inappropriate."

naval officer.

A Buckingham Palace

Reuter.

LONDON, June 28: Britain's

Opposition resents Saifur's remarks

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition in Parliament yesterday sharply reacted against a comment of Finance Minister M Saffur Rahman that opposition criticism of the budget was superficial and rhetorical.

Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, yesterday demanded withdrawal of the remark and suggested the minister stop 'preaching the art of politics' to the opposition.

During his winding up speech on the budget Saifur Rahman told the House Sunday that the opposition criticisms

6 men on trial shot dead in Pak court

ISLAMABAD, June 28: Six men on trial for murder were shot dead today at a court house in the Pakistani city of Sialkot, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said, reports AFP.

Armed assatlants opened fire with AK-47 assault rifles as the defendants arrived under police custody for their trial, APP said.

It said the six died on the spot and that five attackers escaped in a car, adding that police had launched a manhunt to track down the killers.

Five of the prisoners were charged with the killing of a local political leader in March, while the sixth was charged with another murder.

Saudi team holds talks with exporters

A two-member Saudi delegation met with exporters' representatives here yesterday and discussed setting up of a show room of Bangladeshi products in Jeddah, reports

The delegation comprising Balkhair Jamman Al Noamam and Mobarak Mohammad Dahabab also exchanged views with the exporters on import of Bangladeshi products at the meeting held at Export Promotion Bureau (EPB).

2 killed in Feni truck mishap FENI. June 28: Two people

were killed when two trucks met an accident at Lulpur on Feni bypass road this morning, reports UNB. The accident occurred

when a Dhaka bound truck coming from Chittagong hit another standing truck killing its driver and helper on the spot. They were changing the wheels of their vehicle. The deceased were identi-

fied as Md Firoz (27), driver and Din Muhammad (25). helper of the truck.

Police seized both the trucks, but the driver of the killer truck managed to flee.

were not based on statistics, rather they were rhetorical.

Referring especially to the criticism made by Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, who rejected the budget as a 'hoax and bluff, the Finance Minister had observed Hasina's comments were not becoming of the Leader of the Opposition.

"I am constrained to say that a sense of responsibility was lacking in her speech, the minister had said.

Referring to the speech of Samad Azad, who opposed the government's 'golden handshake programme, the Finance Minister had humorously told the House: "Although tunes of the past may still sound melodious today, yet old-style politics would not help develop the country, especially when the entire global scenario had changed so dramatically.

Samad Azad protested these remarks yesterday.

The episode began yesterday morning when Abdul Awal Miah of the Awami League (AL) called the attention of the chair to the fact that neither the Finance Minister nor his State Minister was present in the House to hear the opposition's criticisms against the Finance Bill, 1993.

Colonel (Retd) Oli Ahmed Minister for Communications took the floor to assure the MP that notes on the discussion, being taken by Energy Minister Khandaker Mosharral Hossain, would be handed over to the Finance Minister as soon as he stepped in to the House.

At this point Samad Azad took the floor to express his grievance against the Finance Minister's comments in the House the day before.

Plea to withdraw case against Mirza Azam MP

JAMALPUR, June 28: District Awami League at a rally here today (Monday) demanded withdrawal of a 'false case against local MP Mirza Azam, filed by Anti-Corruption Bureau, reports UNB.

Speakers at the rally said the case was filed as part of a conspiracy against the Awami League MP for proposing a noconfidence motion against the government in parliament.

China, India to open 2nd border trading post

NEW DELHI, June 28: China and India ended here today four days of talks aimed at keeping the peace on their disputed frontier with an agreement to open a second border trading post, reports

Finance Bill

From page 1 col 7 sue SROs.

The Finance Minister said the new fiscal proposals aimed at mobilising domestic resources to reduce dependence on foreign aid. The measures will also help strengthen tax collection machinery, correct loopholes in the revenue administration and curb tax evasion, he stated.

Responding to the opposition criticism, Saifur said preparation of budget for a small country with resource constraints is difficult task, especially when demands and expectations are so high.

"I have tried my best to prepare the budget in consultation with different sections of the society and in line with government policy," he said.

The minister made it clear that there was no proposal in the new budget to withdraw subsidy from agriculture. On the contrary, he claimed, fertiliser price was reduced by Tk 500 per ton, which will cost the exchequer Tk 100 crore in the coming fiscal year.

Saifur Rahman described as 'unfortunate' certain remarks made by some opposition members and came out with a sharp rebuttal of the charges.

He said the BNP government was determined to stop unfair transactions by certain big business houses and curb tax evasion in the country.

He regretted that the transactions of some big houses were not fair and that they had been evading taxes

"Some even have their own come tax officials.

banks and insurance companies without declaring their sources of income," Saifur pointed out.

The minister said the government had reduced the rates of income tax from a maximum of 55 per cent to 25 per cent so that people would now feel encouraged to pay their taxes.

Saifur said he had counted on the support of the Awami League member Tofael Ahmed and Workers' Party member Rashed Khan Menon on some of the progressive measures undertaken in the Finance Bill but unfortunately those professedly progressive politicians did not lend their support to the Finance Bill.

Two amendments moved by treasury bench member A T M Alamgir were welcomed by the Finance Minister,

After the opposition demand for circulating the bill for eliciting public opinion was rejected by voice vote, the House took up for consideration clause-wise amendments to the bill moved by the opposition members barring the exception of a solitary treasury

bencher. The opposition members had sought, among other things, abolition of the system of presumptive assessment of income by tax officials for the purpose of imposing taxes, reduction of the 15 per cent VAT to seven per cent; and declaration of movable and immovable property of the in-

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Jamaat-e-Islami brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the US missile attack - Star photo on Baghdad.

Jamaat condemns attack on Baghdad

Jamaat-e-Islami condemned the US missile attack on Baghdad, saying it is a "naked aggression as part of a deep conspiracy against the Muslim world," reports UNB.

A meeting of the central working committee of the party at its office yesterday accused the United States of launching military aggression against Iraq to divert world at tention from the genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina where it was not taking any action to stop the killing of Muslims.

The meeting with acting party chief Abbas Ali Khan in the chair called upon peaceloving people of the world particularly the Muslim Ummah, to resist the 'American aggression'.

It also appealed to all international fora, including the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, to halt the 'American hege-

Meanwhile, the City Jamaat

vesterday staged demonstration in the city against the US attack on Iraq and called it the most barbaric act in history. Protesting the US missile raids, Jamaat organised a rally

at the north gate of Baitul Speakers at the rally blasted the US for launching a totally unjust and illogical attack on Iraq, 'the most barbaric act in

Presided over by city unit Ameer A T M Azharul Islam, the rally was addressed, among others, by central Jamaat leaders Prof Yusuf Ali and Muhammad Kamaruzzaman.

Importance of bio-technology stressed

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty biotechnological industrial units will be set up in the country in the next seven years with support of the International Centre of Science, Technology and Environment for Densely Populated Regions (ICSTED).

This was disclosed by the ICSTED Chairman Professor Naseem Rahman at a press briefing at Hotel Sheraton in the capital yesterday.

Prof Rahman, who also heads the Trust Fund of the ICSTED, has urged the business community to upgrade its technological level and adapt technology suitable to the national context.

"Potential industrialists can gain by involving themselves with the ICSTED," he said.

"Biotechnology is important worldwide and is an effective science for economic growth. "It can help reduce popula-

tion growth. Many countries in the world were developed through setting up such industries," Prof Rahman told journalists He said it was through the

use of biotechnology that the birth control pill was manufactured, which proved so popular and effective worldwide. This technology could also help produce software computers at a relatively cheaper cost, he added.

Warning that by the year 2000 some parts of the globe would be highly developed leaving the rest underdeveloped, the ICSTED Chairman said; "It is high time for Bangladesh to select its technology for the economic growth.

"We will have to decide right now what sort of industries we need," he said.

The ICSTED is one of the 20 centres for science and technology that are being set up in the Third World at the initiative of the Third World Academy of Science headed by Nobel Laureate Professor Abdus Salam.

All these centres of excellence are being set up to foster economic development in the Third World countries through the application of science and technology.

Opposition condemns

From Page 1 Col 5 The AL member from Khulna said the United States was pursuing a policy of double standard. It failed to stop genocide in Bosnia where Muslims are being killed and women raped.

Raising the issue soon after the House resumed yesterday morning, Jamaat parliamentary party leader Matiur Rahman Nizami said the "unprovoked" US attack on Baghdad stunned the whole world and hurt the sentiment of the Muslim Ummah.

He said the United States remained silent on the genocide in Bosnia but resorted to prompt military action against Iraq on a "lame excuse" of al leged plot to assassinate former US President George Bush when he visited Kuwait on April 12.

The Jamaat leader described the US action as "state terrorism" designed to please Israel

He requested the chair to allow an elaborate discussion on the US "aggression" and adopt a resolution condemning

the role of US administration. Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party described as "unfortunate" the role of United Nations following the US attack on Baghdad, still reeling out of the ruins in flicted by the US-led multina

tional forces in the Gulf war Recalling Iraq's early recognition of independent Bangladesh after the liberation war, Menon said Bangladesh should give an immediate reaction on it and demanded a statement by the Foreign Minister.

Suranjit Sengupta of Ganatantri Party also supported the proposal for adopting a resolution by parliament condemning the US action and expressing solidarity with the peace loving people of Iraq.

Abdur Razzak of Awami League said the US armed at tack tantamounted to interfer ence in internal matters of smaller states by bigger nations. Bangladesh parliament should urge the United Nations to take up the matter for the sake of world peace, he

Clinton: Terrorism

From Page 1 Col 3

war commander Norman Schwazkopf has been put under heavy guard because of Iraqi death threats, CNN said on Sunday, quoting an unnamed administration official. But the Pentagon and police

near his home outside Tampa, Florida could neither confirm nor deny the story. Earlier, the United States

on Sunday told the UN Security council it launched Saturday's cruise missile attack on Baghdad in legitimate selfdefense. The US also displayed a se-

ries of photographs in the Security Council which it said proved the Iraqi secret service directed a plot to assassinate former President George Bush during a visit to Kuwait last Iraq flatly denied any in-

volvement in the conspiracy which it said had been fabricated by the Kuwaiti authori-

Baghdad newspapers said today Iraq would never allow UN inspectors to put remote cameras on its weapons sites. It was the first public airing the Iraqi press has given to the camera dispute, which has been ticking towards a show down for about a month. The Security Council has

warned of serious consequences if weapons inspectors sent are not allowed to use remote cameras to monitor Iraq's missile programme, which is permitted under Gulf war ceasefire terms to build only short-range weapons.

In Baghdad, an angry crowd of 10,000 Iraqis, shouting 'Allah Akbar' and demanding revenge, joined a funeral procession on Sunday for six people killed in the missile strike.

Mourners carried the coffins, draped in Iraqi flags,

tors yelled vengeance, vengeance Saddam' a few old women lining the street wept. Black placards carried by

demonstrators said, "martyrs souls call for vengeance. Glory to the martyrs of Iraq. Shame on America.

1992 as an advisory body to

the Ministry of Commerce is

now drawing up a plan to re-

duce tariff rates to a maximum

of 50 per cent. The Tarill

Commission is working to

identify industries which

would need protection through

a higher tariff rate. The higher

tariff protection, however, will

be awarded for a duration just

long enough for the particular

industry to be able to stand on

Babangida summons

governors

Ibrahim Babangida has sum-

moned the governors of the

country's 30 state to what he

described as a crucial meeting

in the capital Abuja, state-run

The radio gave no details,

radio said today, reports AFP.

but observers said Tuesday's

meeting would cover the fall-

out from the ruling military

junta's annulment of civilian

presidential elections held on

June 12 and disqualification of

the two candidates from run-

set-back to its promised

restoration of civilian rule in

August and described the poll

as a "ridiculous charade."

LAGOS, June 28: President

its own feet.

tions.

their jurisdiction.

sources said.

Tariff Schedule

From Page 1 Col 4

At the turn of the Eighties, except for items in a very narrowly defined 'positive' list, all items were subject to extensive quota restrictions and bans. This was replaced in 1985 by negative and restricted lists of importables. Items outside these lists were freely importable if financed through expatriate Bangladeshis' remittance This system was changed once again in 1989 when a Control List was introduced. At present the Control List contains 193 items.

The complexity of the import system was magnified by the presence of a large number of tariff rates. In 1983 the tariff code had 24 statutory rates. In addition to this there were various rates of sales tax. The number of statutory tariff rates was reduced to 11 in 1986 and to 8 in 1989.

While the systemic changes in the area of imports have been well received by the trade and industry circle, the simultaneous reduction of tariff rates has led to a lot of controversy.

In 1986, the range of statutory tariff rates was quite high - from 0 to 20 per cent for raw materials to 150 to 400 per cent for luxury goods. After successive reductions in tariff rates far fewer products have tariff rates of more than 100 per cent at present. Higher rates of tariff apply to only four categories of luxury

National Tariff Commission established in

on their shoulders from Bab AL-Sharji in central Baghdad to Sahat Khillani, about two kilometres away. As indignant demonstra-

Ajay Das, a second year student of Tejgaon College was assaulted Monday by a group of unidentified youngmen on the DU campus.

Ajay, the Organisation Secrctary of Pro-Jativa Samaj tantrik Dal Bangladesh Chhatra League of Tejgaon College was attacked in front of the Surja Sen Hall when he went there to attend a political convention.

He was later rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hos-

Bank employees

From Page 1 Col 8

president of the Sonali Bank Employees' Union (Rg No-1030) addressed the gathering at the official residence of Sheikh Hasina. Hasina, while welcoming

the new Sramik League members — followers of the failed leader Jamaluddin - said the bank employees joining her party was a very significant development specially when the AL had rejected the 'anti-people' budget of the BNP government.

Hasina said the BNP government's inefficiency has frustrated the people. Describing activities of the BNP as undemocratic, she said this party now wants to stay in power by abusing power. The Awami League chief

said the ruling party is also tryning in promised new elecing to capture the CBAs by influencing elections of trade The governors are the chief unions. "Elections under the BNP executives and the security government will not be neubosses in the states under

tral," she said, referring to

parliamentary by election in Army, navy, air force and police chiefs are also expected the Mirpur seat last February. Hasina was critical of the to attend the meeting where security will be discussed, government's retrenchment policy and selling out prof-General Babangida's regime itable industrial units at throwaway prices. She said while adcancelled the election results equate incentives should be last Wednesday in the latest

distnyested

The Midnight Kile

ME talks enter final week

WASHINGTON, June 28: The United States has stepped up its role in the Israeli-Arab peace talks in a bid to see progress as the current session entered its final week today. Dennis Ross, the special US coordinator for the talks, is expected to travel to the Middle East in July to prepare the next round of talks, which have yet to bring any tangible results, an Israeli delegation member said. Ross has concentrated a lot of his energy on the Israeli-Palestinian talks, whose lack of progress is holding back the rest of the negotiations, said sources close to the Arab delegations, reports AFP.

40,000 Croats driven from homes

SARAJEVO, June 28: Around 40,000 Croat civilians have been driven from their homes in central Bosnia during fighting with Muslim forces, Croatian radio reported today It quoted Croatian Defence Force officials as saying also that 40 Croats had been killed in the region last week in a struggle for territory between the former civil war allies. The heaviest recent fighting has taken place around the towns of Magiaj, Zavidovici and Zepce north of the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, reports Reuter.

Eritrea criticises OAU

CAIRO, June 28: African leaders stung by criticism of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) from its newest member, said today that some critiques were valid but the OAU overall did a good job for Africa. Eritrea's President Isayas Afewerki stunned the opening session of the OAU's 30th anniversary summit by saying the group had been an utter failure. The sad fact remains that the OAU has become a nominal organisation that has failed to deliver on its pronounced objectives and commitments," said Afewerki, whose country became the OAU's 52nd member after winning independence this year from Ethiopia following a 30-year civil war, reports Reuter.

One killed in Jhenidah gunfight

JHENIDAH, June 28: A Purba Bangla Communist Party member was killed and at least six were injured in a flerce gunfight with the rival Biplobi Communist Party men at Bejeemara village in Sadar thana Sunday night, reports UNB.

earlier kidnapped and left on the scene fatally injured after the three-hour-long fighting. Police and villagers said the

encounter between the two outlawed groups erupted after the Biplobi Communist Party gunmen kidnapped Momtaj while returning home last Momtaj was found fatally

wounded this morning due to merciless beating. He succumbed to his injuries at the Sadar Hospital soon after admission.

parties, they added.

commented that the implementation of the project would lead to privatisation of the BIWTC.

The rate of interest on the

According to sources, the WB had stipulated that the relending interest rate of its loan would be 11 per cent which the BIWTC authorities consider very high and feel would prove a heavy burden on the

crore each year in interest

just at a time when the corporation was making up its losses and trying to become profitable, undertaking a project with such high interest rates would be self-defeating. In the first nine months of the current fiscal year, the corporation had increased its earnings by Taka seven crore over the income for he corresponding period last year.

Golam Azam

From Page 1 Col 4 zen-ship Order 1972 is applicable to determine the citizenship of Golam Azam.

fied for citizenship due to his conduct during and after the Liberation War and the notification disqualifying him as citizen of Bangladesh was justified. This aspect was not appreciated by the High Court, the appeal petition said. It further said Golam Azam

did not surrender his Pakistani passport while living in Eng land to the Bangladesh High Commission. Even in 1978 when he came to Bangladesh, he registered as a citizen of Pakistan and subsequently extended his visa twice.

His activities during and after the Liberation War were prejudicial to the interest of the country and he showed al legiance to Pakistan, it added.

Golam Azam came to the court after a lapse of 20 years and as such he was guilty of latches and the High Court ought to have rejected his petition on this ground, the Attorney General said.

government to submit relevant documents of the case

One shot in Khilgaon

A school student received a

the city Monday afternoon. Shahadat Zaman Mintu, 15, a Class Ten student of the Khilgaon Staff High School, was hit by a bullet in his lower abdomen during a cross-fire

Another case against Ershad The Bureau of Anti-

Corruption yesterday filed a case with Dhanmondi thana against former President H M Ershad for sustaining loss of Tk 81,80,990 to the government, reports UNB.

According to the case, Ershad abused his power in the allotment of a government house in Dhanmondi residential area to Janadal on September 4, 1984. This was done in gross violation of rules causing loss to the govern-

Janadal was floated by Ershad which was later renamed as Jatiya Party

The 63-year-old General Ershad is now serving 20 years in fail for keeping unautho-

rised arms and corruption. Raushan

From Page 1 Col 5 of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, after hearing the stay prayer submitted by Attorney General Aminul Haq, asked "Why the appeal for a stay of the High Court order? Why should we interfere against the order of the High Court?" Justice Afzal was quoted as saying after hearing he petition,

The brief hearing took place in Justice Afzal's chamber as a matter of convention of the Appellate Division, court sources said.

The government still has the right to appeal before the Appellate Division against the order of the High Court, Attorney General's office sources said. But it is unlikely that such an appeal will be made.

Begum Raushan Ershad, along with her husband and 17 others, were convicted and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by a special court on June 7 in a corruption case popularly known as the "Janata Tower Case,"

Punjab Assembly

From Page 1 Col 5 Sharif told a news conference Sunday that his meeting with the President was positive and constructive. But he said he expected to

see 'practical steps' to end what he called 'violations of the constitution by the provinces, which are ruled by men loyal to the President. A presidential spokesman

also said the meeting was good and the approach on both sides was positive and constructive. Analysts said although the

meeting ended a communication gap between the two, but Sharif apparently received no assurances that the president was ready to ditch his supporters in the provinces. "It told the president that

no provincial government

should be allowed to go beyond its Constitutional role," Sharif Ishaq Khan's response was quiet positive, the Prime

Minister said adding that the President agreed that the fed eral and provincial govern ments should play their roles within the framework of the Constitution.

bullet wound as two factions of local bullies clashed for about thirty minutes at Khilgaon in

The dead, Mamtaj, 35, was among the warring factions.

Some 400 rounds of shots were fired during the clash. villagers said. The injured were taken away by the members of the respective

BIWTC

From Page 1 Col 8

World Bank's loan for the project is also rather high.

corporation. It has been estimated that the project would cost Taka 67

BIWTC authorities feel that

Azam, he said, was disquali-

The petition said the conduct of Golam Azam outside and inside the country was anti- Bangladeshi which became an undisputed fact.

The court has asked the

given to the private sector yet profitable public sector mills and factories should not be

By Staff Correspondent