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Saifur tells Parliament

Opposition trying to jeopardise economy

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman vesterday accused the major opposition parties in Parliament of making deliberate attempts to jeopardise the process of economic development in the name of struggle for democracy.

The minister was giving his winding up speech in Parliament on the proposed national budget for fiscal 1994-95, placed in the House on June 9.

He told the House that in a parliamentary democracy, the Opposition was supposed to make constructive criticism of the ruling party to help the government implement programmes for socio-economic development in a healthy atmosphere.

"But the present Opposition in Parliament is out to disrupt the government initiatives for creating a congenial invest ment climate." Saifur Rahman said. Despite necessary economic and administrative reforms, foreign investors usually hesitate to invest in a country troubled with political agitations, he added

Referring to the Opposition outline for a caretaker government, the minister said. "How can they be democratic forces when they want the president to form an interim government at the advice of the minority parties in Parliament?"

He termed the outline a scheme for constitutional coup d'etat of the minority ágainst the majority._

He urged the people to remain vigilant against the foes of democracy for continued economic development and consolidation of democratic

Terming the Opposition absence in the House on the day of placement of the budget as well as during his winding up speech 'unfortunate,' he said that the Opposition had been failing to discharge the responsibilities given to them by their electorate.

Turning to the proposed budget, the finance minister said its main objective was poverty alleviation and human resource development.

Implementation of the proposed budget would definitely help lay the foundation of a dynamic economy in the country.

The Speaker adjourned the session at 9:30 pm. It resumes at 3:00 this afternoon

Salam questions neutrality

From Page 1 Col 5 "I don't find any neutrality" in their proposed caretaker government for conducting

general elections, he told re-

porters at the Parliament lobby yesterday evening. In reply to a question, the BNP Secretary General said the joint declaration of three alliances had spelt out the constitutional guidelines and accordingly a neutral govern-

ment was set up on the basis of

consensus. To a question, he said the government was planning to introduce a bill in the current session seeking amendment of existing election rules and laws to enhance power of the Election Commission and ensure a fool-proof election sys-

"Nowhere a government conducts election, it is the Election Commission," Taluk der said, adding the Election Commission is an independent body and a fair election could be guaranteed by enhancing its power and amending certain

laws and rules. On the reported government move to bring a bill with a provision for the Prime Minister to retain her office while other ministers will re-

HBFC borrowers

threaten

sign before election, he said "No one can go beyond the jurisdiction of the Constitution" which is the locus standi of Parliament, gov-

many conventions in countries where parliamentary democracy is functioning over the years. "Without going beyond the sanctions of law, we can also think of creating conven-

"We are totally united. Talukder said when asked about reported rift among the BNP ministers on the question of resignation before elections.

In reply to a question, he said the three bills submitted by the opposition parties regarding the caretaker government could be discussed in the

He told a questioner that the government had no plans to bring blasphemy bill in Parliament. There are already laws to deal with anti-religious activities.

The ruling party Secretary General replied in the negative when a reporter asked if his party supports June 30 hartal. Presently, we are not supporting any hartal."

New Japanese PM likely today

agitation

By Staff Correspondent The association of borrow ers of the House Building Finance Corporation will go for an agitation soon if their demands for reducing loan instalments and simple interest are not accepted.

This was said by leaders of the association at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club

yesterday. The association leaders also called upon the government to allocate more funds for the housing sector and dispense with the system of realising lump sum interest during the period of construction of houses. Otherwise, they will start an agitation soon, they

The press conference was addressed by Sanaullah Noori. Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan and Fazlul Hug, president and chairman of the advisory council and secretary general respectively of the association.

Sanaullah Noori said shelter is a fundamental right of the people and hence the borrowers of HBFC should not be subjected to any harassment and exploitation under the pretext of loan recovery.

Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan called for giving due attention to the housing sector.

JMB surcharge goes July I

All the surcharges and levies for the Jamuna Bridge. imposed on the items includ ing railway tickets and tele phone bills by the erstwhile government nine years back will go with effect from July 1 this year, reports BSS.

ernment, opposition and the He, however, said there are

TOKYO, June 28: Japan's ruling coalition parties agreed that a new Prime Minister should be appointed in parliament by the end of the current session which finishes tomorrow. Morihiro Hosokawa, leader of coalition member the Japan New Party, told re-

porters, reports Reuter. He was speaking after emerging from a meeting of coalition party leaders on how to seek alliance with the Socialist Party.

BML backs hartal

The Bangladesh Muslim League has extended support to the dawn-to-dusk hartal on Thursday, called by the Committee for Resisting Anti-Islamic and Anti-State Activities, reports UNB.

Addressing a rally at the Paltan crossing last afternoon, party leader M A Matin called upon Islam loving forces to make the hartal call a success.

He also called on all Islamic forces to unite under a common banner for resisting blasphemy and conspiracies against Islam.

"The planned hartal will decide whether Islam or anti-Islamic forces will dominate in a land where 90 per cent of the population is Muslim." Matin said.

Asian snooker

From Page 1 Col 8 Hong Kong and Sri Lanka.

Hosts Bangladesh will field three players in the meet scheduled to run in four three

hour sessions every day. Industries Minister Zahiruddin Khan will inaugurate the meet at 7 this evening.

reports UNB. Among the accused are

president of Ingilab Enterprises and Publications Ltd Moulana M A Mannan, editor of the daily A M M Bahauddin. executive editor Moulvi Ruhul Amin Khan, publisher A S M Baqi Billah and news editor Sultan Ahmed, and chairman of Muktijuddher Chetona Bastobayan Parisad Prof M A Barnik.

port headlined "Poet Shamsur Rahman and Kazi Shahed Ahmed acted against the Liberation War" in its June 21 is-

"It has seriously defamed me socially and as a retired army personnel," said Kazi Shahed Ahmed, the editor of the Ajker Kagoj, in the case.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina presiding over an emergency meeting of her party s working committee at her Minto Road residence in the city yesterday. Star photo

AL programme

From Page 1 Col 4 conspiracy rebuffing people's demand for a non-partisan caretaker government.

It also criticised the ruling BNP for ignoring the opposition deadline, June 26, for placing in Parliament a bill on caretaker government.

The meeting in a resolution alleged that the government made Parliament ineffective by blocking the path for the opposition to join Parliament and ignoring people's demand.

The meeting also took stock of the present political situation of the country.

Caretaker govt

Outlines ignore main objective, says Menon

By Staff Correspondent

Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon yesterday said the outline for a caretaker government announced by the three major opposition parties had failed to show a constitutional way of solving the present political crisis.

He said the main objective of developing a permanent system for holding free and fair elections was ignored in the proposed outline.

Menon was exchanging views with his party leaders in Jessore yesterday on the proposal made jointly by the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-i-Islami regarding a caretaker government

He said the proposal has given the BNP a chance to ignore the main demand of the opposition political parties.

He said that the Workers' Party and the Left Democratic Front (LDF) have no links with the joint movement of the three parties. The WP and LDF have their own position regarding the issue of a caretaker government and they would continue their efforts for realising their demand, he

The meeting presided over by the party's Jessore district Secretary Iqbal Kabir Zahid was also addressed, by Zakir Hossain, Abu Bakar Siddiqi and

Zillur Rahman Jubo League's torch procession today

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Awami Jubo League will bring out a torch procession after a rally in the city today in support of the June 30 hartal called by the Nirmul Committee.

The rally will be held in front of the city Awami League office at Bangabandhu Avenue at 4 pm.

Ajker Kagoj editor sues

The Editor of the daily Ajker Kagoj filed a defamation suit with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday against the Daily Inqilab for publishing a report against him,

The Ingilab published a re-

Orlando to play the winner of

'Professionalism key to efficient management A top management expert capture the management posi-

from India has cautioned that privatisation efforts might flounder if the entrepreneurs fail to behave efficiently, reports UNB.

"Let us not assume that privatisation will be the key to development. It can be an opportunity or a calamity. The consequence depends on how efficient management an en trepreneur can ensure in his company," said Sharu S Rang-

Rangnekar, rated as one of the top management consultants in the sub-continent, told a lecture session of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) that "people will certainly point fingers at you if you fail, as they did, at the crippling public sector."

He observed that development depends not on any par ticular ideology but on three factors — productivity, quality and innovation. An intuitive manager can

ensure those factors in a company, said Rangnekar, who served in senior management positions of a number of giant companies in India, including Union Carbide. The consultant advised the

local entrepreneurs to employ professional managers instead of depending on family members in achieving success. He cited examples from his own country where some famous companies, including the Birlas and Modis, are facing crises because of rivalries among the family members to

To get the best out of the professional managers, the ex pert recommended three ac tions on the part of the owners - giving managers a sense of ownership, involving them in decision-making so that they feel themselves important, and training for managers.

DCCI President A Rob Chowdhury presided over the lecture programme.

Our correspondent adds: In his lecture on "East-Southeast Asian Growth Experience, Rob Chowdhury said instead of a single and widely acceptable model for economic development the East Asian experi ence shows that rapid industrialisation can be achieved in various ways. While countries like South Korea Singapore and Taiwan chose a great deal state intervention, Hong Kong depended heavily on market-oriented policies.

"All these economies preferred a set of good economic policies such as macro-economic stability and discipline outward orientation and hu man resource development. He stressed the need fo

educating the people to attract foreign investment because unless the labour force is educated, they cannot operate complicated machinery

M Mosharraf Hossain, Ma naging Director, Rapport Bangladesh, was present in the lecture session as special gu-

Mexico, Ireland thru

From Page 1 Col 6 draw today which sent the Irish into the last 16 from Group E while condemning Norway to an early exit.

The 1-1 draw between Italy and Mexico left all four teams in the group deadlocked on four points from three matches and also level on goal

difference. Norway finish last as they have scored the least goals while Mexico win the group thanks to the three they have netted. Ireland qualify ahead of Italy thanks to their 1-0 win

over the Italians on June 18. The meeting of long-ball exponents Norway and Ireland was an untidy spectacle with the attacking limitations of both sides evident.

Norway almost scored in the 75th minute when striker Goeran Soerloth's shot bounced off the top of the bar lollowing a huge scramble in the Irish goalmouth.

Irish goalkeeper Pat Bonnier, taking his record tally of caps to 76, displayed a steady nerve and good handling as the Norwegians drove in a series of long shots in the frantic closing stages.

The massive Irish contingent in the crowd celebrated as Ireland reached the last 16 for the second World Cup in a row while Norway, in their tion. first finals since 1938, had to prepare to pack their bags. Rarely can a 0-0 draw have

sparked the kind of celebration the Irish fans produced as they saluted their heroes and chanted for manager Jack Charlton to come onto the Former England centre-half

the game from the stand, serv ing a one-match ban from the touchline after insulting offi cials in Ireland's 2-1 defeat to Mexico in Orlando last Friday. He finally emerged to huge cheers about 20 minutes after

the final whistle, waving hap

ireland now return to

pily to the adoring Irish fans.

Charlton was forced to watch

Group F. Charlton had wanted to avoid the heat of Florida but he is sure to settle for that

rather than a ticket home. · Norway's players trooped off with heads bowed, knowing that a scoreless draw would not be enough for them. They are sure to think they missed their chance last Thursday when 10-man Italy beat them 1-0 at Giants Stadium.

9 Nigerian World Cup stars seek asylum in US

BOSTON, Massachusetts June 28: Nigeria's World Cup football stars are "extremely upset" over reports that nine of them plan to seek political asylum in the United States reports AFP.

According to a Boston newspaper, the nine, who were unnamed, will wait until the tournament ends on July 17 before making a move. "We are deeply embar

rassed and the players are extremely upset about this," said Augustine Mbolu, the team's press officer. He said Nigeria's militarybacked government had been

and had demanded a retrac-All of Nigeria's 22-players are on lucrative contracts with foreign clubs and already live abroad. At home they are heroes and defection would be

a deep blow to national pride.

informed of the bogus report

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, is rivalled only by Brazil in its passion for soccer But only in Nigeria are all 52 of the World Cup's games being televised live.

million-dollár contracts, most of them with European clubs, said Mbolu, "What would they do in America?" "Somebody is trying to get at the team. I would like to

know who ." he said

"These players are all on

DMC students observe token strike

By DMCH Correspondent

The interne doctors of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) observed a three hour strike yesterday protesting Sunday's attack on the medical college by some outsiders.

They will also abstain from duties from 8 am to 2 pm today and will observe a day-long strike on July 2.

Editorial on Page 4

On Monday the authorities had closed the Dhaka Medical College for an indefinite period and asked the residential students to vacate their halls following violence over the death of a medical student in a road

accident in Sylhet on Sunday. Both the interne doctors and students are demanding punishment to the 'killers' and of those who attacked the college on Sunday. The students demanded resignation of the college principal, Dr Zahurul Mawla Chowdhury

Meanwhile, the Academic Council of Dhaka Medical College met yesterday but the meeting ended after two hours without taking any decision on the issue, said a source. The council would meet again today (Wednesday), the source

The students also held a press conference at the Dhaka Medical College Students Union (Dhamecsu) office yes-

Processionists clash with cops: 12 hurt By Staff Correspondent

About a dozen people, including a police officer, were injured when processionists clashed with police near the Jatiya Press Club and in Purana Paltan areas in the city yesterday evening.

Police resorted to baton charge and lobbed several rounds of teargas shells to disperse the mob who hurled stones at police around 7 pm. Police picked up five people from the scene.

According to witnesses, the clashes ensued when police barricaded the processionists who were marching towards the Jatiya Press Club chanting slogans in favour of the June 30 hartal. Police intercepted them near Purana Paltan, they

Nirmul body

See Page 12 Col 4

and its affiliated bodies would wear black badges and hoist black flags.

The committee also supported tomorrow's hartal callby the Sampradayikata Birodhi Chhatra Samaj in a bid to resist the activities of anti-progressive and anti-Liberation forces

in the country. The committee will hold condolence meetings and offer prayers for the peace of the departed soul.

It will receive the body of

Jahanara Imam at Zia Interna-

tional Airport on July 4 and observe July 6 as a "national mourning day." The rally, presided over by Kazi Aref Ahmed, was addressed by Begum Sufia Kamal as chief guest, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Nurul Islam Nahid, Abdur Razzak MP

Chowdhury, General (retd) Safiullah, Bir Uttam. Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, the city AL secre-

Nirmal Sen, Principal Ahad

tary, conducted the rally. "Follow the ideals o Jahanara Imam. Free the country from the liars and the fa natics exploiting religion, and the killers of '71," Sufia Kamal urged the people.

"Jahanara Imam is not dead. She will live in the heart of every mother of this country. They would send their children to fight the fanatics who killed millions in the name of religion during the Liberation War," she said.

people to resist the hartal called by the fundamentalists tomorrow. Abdur Razzak MP said that

Nirmal Sen urged the

religion was being used for political gains. "We definitely want trial of persons accused of blasphemy. But we would not let anyone capitalise on blasphemy and

accuse everyone of it. We shall

resist this at any cost," he said.

The committee leaders criticised the government for "charging Jahanara Imam and others with treason" and regretted that those who committed excesses during the war of independence were being 'rehabilitated' by the government.

The Midnight File

AP photographer shot in Rwanda

KIGALI, Rwanda. June 28: An Associated Press photographer was shot and slightly wounded Tuesday in Kigali, where he was covering the Rwandan civil war. Nairobi-based photographer Ricardo Mazalan. 29, was hit by a stray bullet as he sat in his room at the capital's Meridien Hotel. Mazalan received' a flesh wound in the right thigh, a United Nations spokesman said. The United Nations planned to evacuate him to Nairobi, Kenya, on Wednesday, reports AP.

ESAF successor

From Page 1 Col 3 worth of the country's im-

Until a policy framework paper is finalised with the IMF. Bangladesh would not be able to draw on the 392.5 million special drawing rights (SDR or about 549.5 million dollars) quota set aside for the country under the three-year new programme initiated this year. The ministry source however, acknowledged that preliminary discussions with the IMF have already been ini tiated, but that nothing has

been finalised yet. A draft policy framework paper, prepared by the Fund. was discussed when an IMF mission visited Dhaka last month. The future arrange ments with the IMF would be further discussed during an other visit by a mission from Washington in September. Earlier in February this

year, the executive board of the IMF decided to initiate operations under the enlarged and extended ESAF trust making another six countries eligible, in addition to the present 72, for the concessional According to an IMF press

structural adjustment facility release, the fund "support will be for a three-year comprehensive structural adjustment programme" outlined in a pol-Elections under

caretaker govt favoured

By Staff Correspondent Speakers at a discussion meeting organised by the Bangabandhu Parishad yesterday underscored the need for holding general elections under a caretaker government as well as democratization of the

They said, no free and fair election could be held under this government. They also observed that not only the next elections but two or three subsequent elections should also be held under a caretaker government and the Constitution should be amended accord-

Held at the TSC auditorium. the meeting was chaired by Justice K M Sobhan and addressed by Prof Dr Anisuzza man, Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, journalist Santosh Gupta and Col (rtd) Shawkat Ali, MP.

Dr Harun-or-Rashid presented the keynote paper on 'the importance of free and fair elections to establish democracy.' Dr Anisuzzaman said, distortion of election results was

started during late President

Zia's rule. After that, there was

corruption in each and every election. He said, the democratic movement cannot succeed with those who do not believe in democracy and who were against the Liberation War. He stressed the need for making the people understand what

democratic norms are.

icy framework paper and within this framework, detailed yearly policy programmes are formulated and supported by ESAF arrangements, under which loan disbursements are made. The World Bank also provides concessional loans from the international Development Association (IDA) within this

Under the extended ESAF programme greater attention would be given to setting up social safety nets for the vulnerable groups of the population, integrating contingency mechanisms to protect adjustment programmes against adverse external shocks and on well-targeted technical assistance programmes to address problems of administrative inefficiency which, the Fund said, remains a severe constraint in most countries.

(seven billion dollars) has been targeted as lending capital under the extended facility with a subsidised interest rate of 0.5 per cent per annum and repayable within five to 10 Bangladesh received concessional loans under both the

A total of five billion SDR

(SAF), 201.25 million SDR, and the ESAF, 345 million SDR, programmes initiated in 1986 and 1987 respectively. A recent IMF study indicates that the inflation rate dropped to 5.1 per cent in mid-1992 compared with 10.2 per cent during the post SAF period while export growth

ume declined from 5.9 per cent to 4.1 per cent during the On the other hand, the real GDP growth rate declined from 4.2 per cent in the post-SAF period to 3.2 per cent in 1992 while the investment to GDP ratio dropped from 12.2 per cent to 11.9 per cent and the domestic savings rate also

jumped from five per cent to

13.9 per cent and import vol-

the same period.

declined from 4.8 per cent of

the GDP to 4.3 per cent over

HC rule From Page 1 Col 4 Bangladesh in Parliament and

in making legislations, as per

provisions of Article 65 of the Constitution. All opposition members of the Jatiya Sangsad have been boycotting the sessions demanding a constitutional provision for holding future elections under a non-partisan caretaker government. The absence of the opposition parties in parliament is a clear viola-

tion of the constitution, the

petition contended. It said that although the opposition members of Parliament have not been attending the sessions since March 1. they were illegally drawing their salaries, daily allowances and enjoying the housing and telephone facilities and other benefits, thereby causing financial loss to the exchequer.

Mohammad Ali, Bar-at-Law appeared on behalf of the peti-



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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motifheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd. 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205, PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.