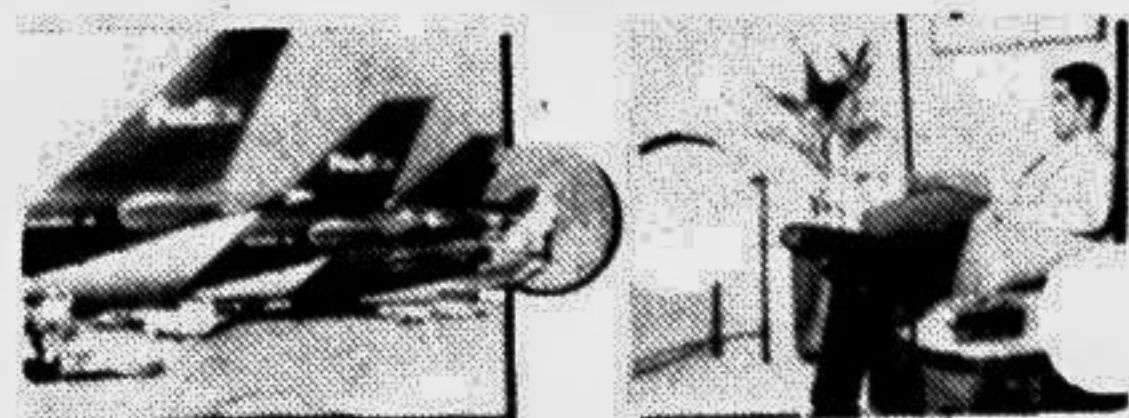


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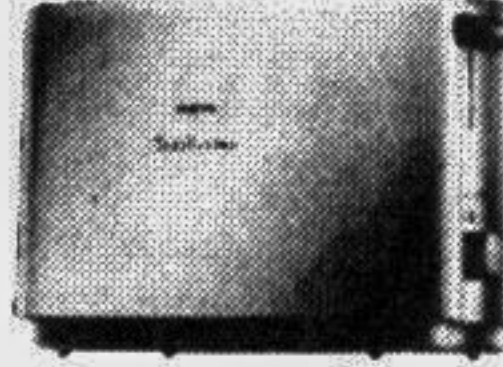
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PHILIPS

Budget discussion in JS continues

By Staff Correspondent

Ruling party MPs yesterday praised the Finance Minister for proposing "a pro-people budget" while a Jatiya Party lawmaker observed that the proposed budget would fail to deliver anything good to the poor.

The JP lawmakers also opposed the idea of enhancing the defence budget.

The MPs were taking part in the general discussion on the proposed national budget for the 1998-99 fiscal in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. The budget was placed in the House on June 11.

The AL lawmakers appreciated the highest allocation for the education sector in the proposed budget. They lauded the proposal to expand the VAT net. They also hailed the government for its performance during the current fiscal year. In this connection, the ruling party MPs mentioned the introduction of the old age pension scheme and setting up of the Employment Bank.

Mohammad Mokbul Hossain of the Awami League hailed the finance minister for

proposing a 30 per cent increase in the expenditure for the police. "The increased allocation would contribute to improving social and political stability, which is essential for the country's overall development."

ABM Abul Kashem of the AL found the current industrial growth, 8.1 per cent, to be a big achievement.

JP legislator Rustam Ali Faraji said that the proposed budget "would definitely fail to deliver anything good to the grassroots level people."

The JP MP strongly opposed the proposal for increased defence allocation. "We do not see any rationale for enhancing the defence budget when a large number of our population is still deprived of food and medicine."

Others who took part in the deliberation included Ramesh Chandra Sen and Begum Monnujan Sufian of the ruling Awami League.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid adjourned the House at 5:15 pm to resume again at 2:00 pm tomorrow.

US clarifies

From Page 1

operations, building three schools, and medical training and treatment.

"For each exercise, Bangladesh and the United States, sign a temporary memorandum of understanding which serves the same purpose as a SOFA. A SOFA would obviate the necessity to conclude a memorandum of understanding for each exercise."

The clarification further said, "The US government has Status of Forces Agreements (SOFAs) with many nations with which it has friendly relations and conducts joint military training exercises."

"A SOFA establishes agreed procedures governing the movement of US personnel and supplies into a host nation for an exercise. A SOFA also clarifies legal procedures to be followed should US military personnel harm individuals or property in the host nation during an exercise."

"All joint exercises are approved by the host government. A SOFA does not entail or imply a security commitment or military alliance, the establishment of military bases, or the development of rest and recreation facilities for the US military personnel," the clarification said.

CHT confce

From Page 1

The ERD Secretary said that Canada, Australia and The Netherlands have made commitments to extend assistance for development activities in the CHT. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have shown active interest in taking up projects in the region.

The organisers of the International Conference drew up a long list of invitees that included former US President Jimmy Carter, negotiator of Irish peace deal former US Senator George Mitchell and South African leader and Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu.

However, it is learnt that Carter and Mitchell have regretted "due to other pre-occupations". A response is still being awaited from Tutu.

The organisers said that they were expecting participation of some members of the British Parliament and representatives of some leading governmental and non-governmental organisations and think-tanks, particularly those involved in work related to peace and resolution of conflict.

Representatives of the embassies and the leading donor agencies based in Dhaka will be present at the conference.

UNDP's Need Assessment Mission is learnt to have carried out a survey in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban, which will be presented at the conference.



Pickets set afire an autorickshaw of a newspaper at Dolaikhal during hartal hours in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Sporadic clashes mark hartal

From Page 1

jured in the clashes. The pickets also ransacked at least two dozen vehicles including six autorickshaws of newspaper offices. About 170 pickets were picked up from different areas of the city, police sources said.

Of the injured, eight were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, DMCH sources said.

The injured police personnel were admitted to Rajarbagh Police Hospital.

During the hartal period, motorised vehicles remained off the city roads. A number of rickshaws and push carts, however, were seen plying on different roads. A convoy of buses without passengers was also found moving on some major streets for some time.

Some areas in the old part of the city mainly Dholaikhal, Rai Saheb Bazar, Naya Bazar, witnessed clashes during the hartal hours.

Chase and counter-chase between supporters and opponents of hartal continued intermittently in these areas, said witnesses.

Three autorickshaws including that of a newspaper office were set on fire and a number of rickshaws were damaged in the areas.

Police sub-inspector Zahid was injured near Rai Saheb Bazar Crossing at about 10:20 am when pro-hartal activists threw a cracker at riot police squad. He was taken to hospital. Police lobbed 11 rounds of

tear gas shells and three rounds of rubber bullets to bring back normalcy in the area. They also picked up two pickets from the spot.

Chase and counter-chase between a pro-hartal BNP procession and anti-hartal Awami Secchyasebak League activists took place near the Paltan Crossing at about 10:30 am.

\$ 10.15m IDB loan for water supply facilities in coastal belt

A loan agreement to finance the "water supply facilities in the coastal belt of Bangladesh" has been signed in Jeddah between the Bangladesh government and Islamic Development Bank (IDB), reports BSS.

Abdul Malek, Acting Consul General for Bangladesh in Jeddah and Ousmanq Seek, Vice-President, IDB signed the agreement on behalf of their respective authority, according to a message received here yesterday.

Under this loan agreement, IDB will provide 10.15 million US dollars to execute the "water supply facilities in the coastal belt of Bangladesh" project. This project will be implemented by Department of Public Health Engineering under Local Government Division.

The BNP procession was led by Amanullah Aman, MP, Nazimuddin Alam MP, Habibun Nabi Shohel, JCD General Secretary and Chowdhury Alam, DCC Ward Commissioner.

During a clash between the rival activists in Motijheel area, police sergeant Altaf Hossain received bomb injury at about 11:45 am. One picket was arrested from the spot.

Clash between police and hartal supporters in Gopibagh area continued for over two hours from about 7:30 am.

Police fired several rounds of rubber bullets and tear gas shells when pro-hartal activists hurled a crackers at them, witnesses said. At least 14 persons, mostly hotel workers were picked up from the spot.

A pro-hartal procession led by city BNP Convener Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, was intercepted by police near Tikatuly crossing at about 10:45 am.

Police resorted to lathicharge on the processionists and picked up five of them as they exploded crackers. None was, however, injured.

Chase and counter-chase between the pro and anti-hartal pickets were also reported from Dholaipar. Police picked up one Saiful Islam for carrying a gun, witnesses said. Besides, one Zahedul Islam injured while making bomb, was shifted to DMCH hospital sources said.

In Mahakhali area, an employee of Bangladesh Biman came under bomb attack at about 10:50 am, police said.

World Cup

From Page 1

reduced to 10 men.

The worst miss of the match — and possibly the tournament so far — came when Mkhalele failed to manage the simplest of tap-ins in front of an open goal after a cross from McCarthy in the 28th minute.

South Africa could have won it at the death when Quinton Fortune shot from 30 metres and beat Schemichel, but hit the bar.

Return to JS

From Page 1

broadcast of the Sangsad proceedings.

The Prime Minister reiterated her previous day's explanation that it was stopped in accordance with the four-point agreement signed with BNP.

However, she announced that live broadcast by the radio would be restored.

But BNP might object to this, Hasina said. "I would have been happy had the BNP raised the demand for restoration".

Live broadcast by "radio may prompt the opposition lawmakers to return to the House", a smiling premier said, adding "the radio-therapy may work".

On the TV coverage of Sangsad proceedings, she only said, TV crew were still scared because the opposition MPs had attacked them and damaged the expensive ENG cameras on the floor of the House.

She claimed that the four-point accord with BNP was by and large implemented and blamed it for its allegation of non-implementation.

SAARC summit in last week of July: Lanka

COLOMBO, June 18: Sri Lanka today announced that the SAARC summit would be held here towards the end of July, reports PTI.

Dismissing rumours about the cancellation of the summit owing to the reported reluctance of some of the member countries to agree to the two new dates proposed by Sri Lanka, an official spokesman here said the summit would be held in the last week of July but refused to give exact dates.

He said the government was still awaiting for formal confirmations from one or two countries and the dates would be announced shortly.

Mid-term polls

From Page 1

journalists, both Bhuiyan and Khoka expressed deep shock at the incidents and held government agencies responsible for those incidents.

Khoka, however, did not rule out the possibility of involvement of BNP activists in the attack on journalists.

The BNP leaders assured the journalists that they will be careful in future so that no newsmen fall victim to such attack.

Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Tariqul Islam, MK Anwar, Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Haris Chowdhury, Mashhur Rahman, Jaynal Abedin Faruque, Nazimuddin Alam and Habibun Nabi Shohel were present at the press briefing.

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI)
116/A, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208
Ref No. BSTI/Dir(Stan)/SL/98 Dated: 08-06-98

Notice
বিএসটিআই মার্কাযুক্ত পণ্য ব্যবহার করুন
গুণগতমান সম্বন্ধে নিশ্চিত হউন

It is hereby notified for general information that Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) will prepare a National Standardization List of various industrial products for 1998-99 financial year. In view of standardization and revision of indigenous, exportable and imported agricultural and food products, jute and textile products, electrical goods, chemical products and engineering items, 'product name' proposals are invited from all concerned including the producers and users.

As such it is requested to send the name of products for National Standardization, BDS-Revision of industrial product/goods to the undersigned by 25 June 1998.

Md Shafiqur Rahman
Director (Standards)
Dhaka-1208
Phone: 608324

চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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