

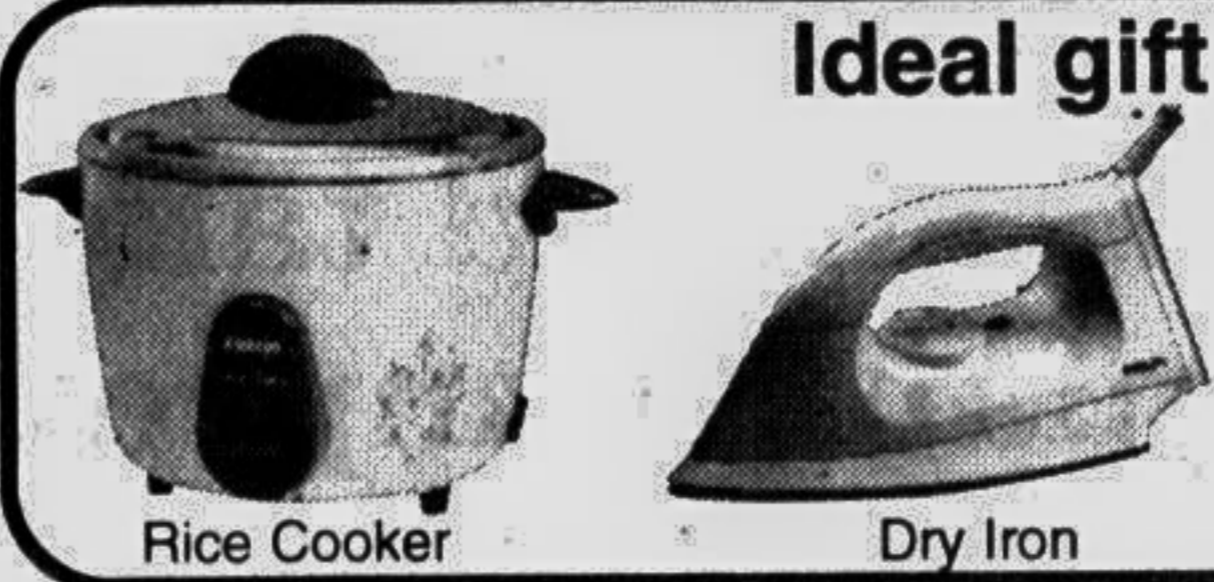
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PHILIPS

Proposed budget full of rhetoric: BNP People's aspiration will be fulfilled: AL

Opposition lawmakers yesterday termed the proposed budget as full of rhetoric while ruling party MPs said it will fulfil the aspiration of the general people, reports UNB.

Taking part in the morning session of budget discussion in Parliament, the opposition MPs also said that the Finance Minister has ruined the country's economy during the last two years. The ruling party MPs, however, defended him saying he has brought back discipline in the financial sector.

State Minister for Land Rashed Mosharrar said the budget has touched some significant social welfare issues like allocating money for allowance for elderly people and employment bank.

Abdul Halim of BNP said the proposed budget does not have any directives for national development.

He said how could be Finance Minister claim success in economy when important factor like growth rate is negative. Rejecting the inflation rate projected by the Finance Minister, Alamgir Kabir of BNP said that the actual inflation rate was 10 per cent.

Mohammad Shajahan of BNP said the budget is designed to make Bangladesh a market of India.

Alhaj Mokbul Hossain of AL demanded a white paper on how the former ruling party BNP ruined the economy.

He urged the Finance Minister to withdraw taxes on the

garments sector.

Abdul Wahab of BNP said the ruling party has no respect to democracy. He said how can the Prime Minister claim that her government was democratic when the Speaker of the parliament was refused to get a seat on the podium at the inaugural function of the Jamuna bridge.

AKM Mosharrar Hossain of BNP said there was no actual investment in industrial sector during the current fiscal year and thus the Finance Minister can not claim success.

Mujibur Rahman Talukder of AL said the present government has taken a number of remarkable steps to strengthen the economy.

Abu Lais Mohammad Mubin Chowdhury of Jatiya Party said

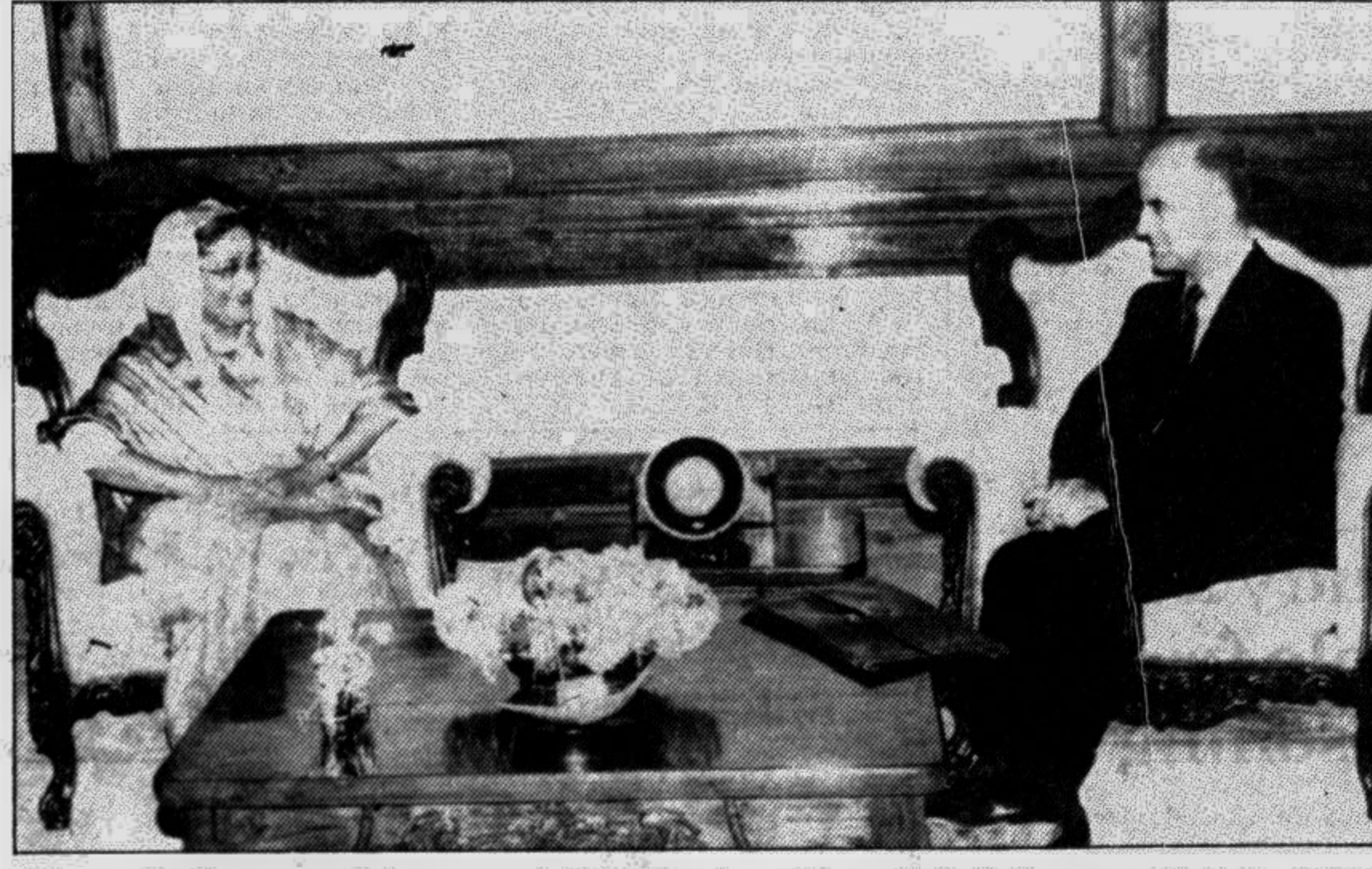
the budget will not fulfill the demand and aspiration of the general people.

Shahidul Islam of BNP said the price hike of essentials reminds us the days under the rule of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hosne Ara Wahid of AL thanked the Finance Minister for allocating more money in the human resource development.

Sayedul Islam of AL said it is a balanced budget and ensured development in the country.

Prof Shahidul Islam of BNP said the proposed budget is a document of falsehood as the Finance Minister has given wrong statistics and information.



Alvaro de Soto, special envoy of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganobhaban yesterday. —PID photo

Sino-US pact

From Page 1

stress that their differences did not derail their strategic alliance, and also struck a landmark deal on re-aiming their missiles targeting each other's cities.

Clinton said the pact was a 'counterweight' to the recent Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests.

"Clearly a stable, open prosperous China shouldering its responsibilities for a safer world is good for America," Clinton said.

"Nothing makes that point better than today's agreement not to target our missiles at each other."

Jiang said the two powers were 'partners and not adversaries.'

Clinton praised Jiang's government for resisting pressure to devalue its currency, a move many fear would worsen Asia's financial crisis. But they could not agree on terms to allow China entry into the World Trade Organisation, which sets global trade rules.

Later Clinton held talks over lunch with Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji. Clinton aides said Zhu reassured Clinton of his government's firm resolve not to devalue the Chinese currency, and they agreed Zhu would pay an official visit to Washington.

In an animated manner, Jiang said the fact that the US and Chinese leaders can disagree publicly is a healthy sign for relations.

"I think President Clinton is a strong defender of the American interest, and I am a strong defender of the Chinese interest," Jiang said. "But despite that, we still can have very friendly exchanges of views and discussion. And I think that is democracy."



US President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton greet Chinese President Jiang Zemin and his wife Wang Yeping during a state arrival ceremony at the Great Hall near Tiananmen Square yesterday. —AP/UNB photo

Slum dwellers evicted from near Sonargaon Hotel

Several hundred slum dwellers near Sonargaon Hotel in the city were evicted by the police yesterday, reports UNB.

The authorities brought them to Ershad Nagar in Tongi for their rehabilitation.

The trucks carrying the evicted slum dwellers were intercepted by Tongi police in the evening at Abdullahpur bridge in Uttara apprehending clash with the inmates of Ershad Nagar.

But the trucks were later allowed to go following intervention by the higher authorities.

Boycott of courts by lawyers in Khulna continues

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, June 27: Boycott of courts by lawyers of Khulna Bar Association passed its 14th day today.

The lawyers are still insisting on their demands including immediate removal of the Deputy Commissioner and the ADC (General) and the compensation of the extensive damage caused to the KBA building by a section of unruly staff of the DC's office on May 13, following demolition of sidewalk in between the Judges' court and the collectorate building.

BNP: Press

From Page 1

Chair seeking 20 minutes for Saidee but he was given only 10 minutes.

Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, who was also present at the press briefing, said, "If the government had any intention to let us discuss the budget, it would not hold the BAC meeting on June 9. At least it could arrange another meeting on the BAC on a later date."

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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BJMB maintenance contractor to be given spl power

By Mizan Ali

The Jamuna Bridge Operation and Maintenance Contractors (JOMAC) will be given some special powers to ensure smooth movement of traffic on the Bangabandhu Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, official sources said yesterday.

Necessary laws are being drafted. Once approved by the Jatiya Sangsad, these special laws will be applicable on the Bangabandhu Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge and the 14 km approach road on its both sides, the sources said.

Besides, there is also a plan to set up two police stations on both sides of the bridge. A proposal in this regard, prepared by the police headquarters, has already been sent to the home ministry for necessary action, the sources added.

There are two police outposts on both sides of the bridge now. Even five days after inauguration of the BJMB, people continued to swarm the bridge site yesterday, despite an appeal by the authorities concerned to follow certain restriction for security and safety, site officials said.

Leaflets were circulated in public places around the bridge site for the second consecutive day yesterday, urging people to maintain certain restrictions, sources said.

Five toll bars on both ends of the bridge have been damaged so far, said site officials adding that those have been replaced by bamboos.

The computerised system for toll collection, installed on the bridge, is not working due to some problems in the software. Toll collection is going on manually now, they said.

Leaving the 'long march' at Kanchpur and that the ruling party workers raped many women there on the previous night.

"No such rape incident took place at Kanchpur on the night of June 8," he said adding that a woman was raped on June 6 and that police arrested two persons including local BNP leader Nooruddin for their involvement in the incident.

Quoting a press report, the AL MP said that Nooruddin had also confessed to the magistrate his involvement in the June 6 rape incident and blamed the BNP for spreading falsehood now to save its leader.

Shamim Osman also claimed that he and other AL leaders had cleared the barricade because Kanchpur is in his constituency.

BNP staged the second walkout at 6.17 pm. They supported Saidee who protested the Deputy Speaker's decision allowing him 10 minutes in stead of 20 minutes. But, the Chair regretted saying that he had earlier informed an Opposition whip about his decision.

Lease of land to American co in Patenga protested

CHITTAGONG, June 27: The 99-year lease of 200 acres of land to Stevedoring Service of America (Bangladesh) Ltd for setting up a private container port has sparked protest by the labour unions here, reports UNB.

Nineteen labour unions including CBA of the port handed over a memorandum to the chairman of the port authority on Wednesday urging the Prime Minister to intervene in the matter.

The signatories to the memorandum included the presidents and secretaries of different labour unions belonging to various political parties including Awami League, BNP, JP and Jamaat-e-Islami.

Sources said the lease was given for the land at Patenga to construct the private container port by the American company.

Meanwhile, Director of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries Farid Ahmad Choudhury urged the government to withdraw the permission for establishing the container port in the private sector.



Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal observed a token hunger strike at Ramna Batamul in the city yesterday protesting alleged rape and abduction of some women by ruling partymen at Simrail near Kanchpur on the night of June 8. —Star photo

Annan's envoy

From Page 1

India and Pakistan assured her that they would not go for further nuclear tests, the spokesman said.

"This is essential not only for the security of South Asian region, but also for Asia as a whole," the Prime Minister was quoted to have told the envoy.

She said Bangladesh wants stability and security in the South Asian region for ensuring development.

In this regard, Hasina mentioned hosting of a tripartite business summit of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan in Dhaka early this year where the leaders had agreed to forge greater cooperation at government and private levels.

The UN special envoy was accompanied by Rolf Knutsson, Director, Executive Office of UN Secretary General, and Horst Heitmann of the Department of Political Affairs in UN.

Not a favour from Speaker

By Nazmul Ashraf

One may have mistaken it for a special favour from the Speaker. It wasn't so, technically. In a way, it was.

When the Speaker gave extra two minutes — practically extended to four minutes — to BNP MP Shahidul Islam, the Opposition lawmaker was saying something that the Chair must have liked.

During the budget discussion in parliament yesterday, Islam's point was that the Speaker's privilege and honour had not been taken care of when he was not given a seat on the dais at the inauguration ceremony of Bangabandhu Bridge. "You were made to sit among the audience despite the fact you are number three in the warrant of precedence."

As he was continuing his time ended and the Speaker's announcement granting him extra two minutes came. That too, on a day when the Chair was very strictly managing the microphones. None including the ministers were spared when allocated time was over.

The case was different with the BNP MP. But his time was extended as per his party whips decision. His extra two minutes in fact took away a fellow party MP's time.

But Islam eventually made it more than just two minutes, till the Speaker asked him to stop after four minutes.

A the inauguration ceremony on June 23, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury failed to find a seat on the dais when he walked onto it along with the Prime Minister and other ministers and dignitaries. The Speaker had to get down to the audience. He, however, managed a front row seat.

'India capable of facing sanctions'

BOMBAY, June 27: India's top scientists said today the country was quite capable of meeting the challenge posed by the US economic sanctions, reports AP.

"We must get our act together... We need extensive co-operation between science, technology, universities and industry," R Chidambaram, chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission told students, teachers and scientists at an awards function in Bombay, India's financial capital.

A P J Abdul Kalam, scientific adviser to India's defense minister, said Indian scientists had built a super computer that was 20 times faster than the US made computers.

"This could be used to design missiles or electronic warfare systems. They are ready for export and we can sell at half the cost," said Kalam.

Stop N-tests

From Page 1

missile race in South Asia

The P-5 joint communique of June 4, which was endorsed by UN Security Council resolution 1172, sets out clear and comprehensive objectives and a plan for action to address the threat of a South Asian nuclear and missile arms race.

"We pledge our full support for the steps outlined in the joint communique, and again call on India and Pakistan to stop all further nuclear tests and adhere immediately and unconditionally to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), to refrain from weaponisation or deployment of nuclear weapons and from the testing or deployment of missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, and to enter into firm commitments not to weaponise or deploy nuclear weapons or missiles capable of delivering them."

Strengthening global non-proliferation cooperation

The United States and China remain firmly committed to strong and effective international cooperation on nuclear non-proliferation, with the treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as its cornerstone.

"We will continue to bolster global nuclear non-proliferation efforts, and reiterate that our goal is adherence of all countries, including India and Pakistan, to the NPT as it stands, without any modification."

"States that do not adhere to the treaty cannot expect to be accorded the same benefits and international standing as are accorded to NPT parties. Notwithstanding their recent nuclear tests, India and Pakistan do not have the status of nuclear weapons states in accordance with the NPT."

JS debate

From Page 1

In protest, the Jamaat lawmaker staged a walkout at 6:17 pm and did not return to the House till adjournment of the session at 7 pm. However, BNP lawmakers led by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Badruddoza Chowdhury, who also walked out of the House at the same time returned barely one minute later.

Before staging the brief walkout, Badruddoza Chowdhury took the floor to say that during a BNP delegation's talks with the Speaker on June 25, it was discussed that the House would be in business from 10 am to 10 pm everyday so that the Opposition lawmakers could take part in budget discussion. "But, it now seems that you are not willing to run the House till 10 pm and that's why you are curtailing the time to 10 minutes from 20 minutes," he said addressing the Chair.

Later, Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman and Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed also took part in the unscheduled debate.

Hasina told the House that she could not understand why BNP staged a Jamaat-led walkout. "It is decided at the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting how long the session would continue. But, the Opposition did not take part in BAC meeting."

The Leader of the Opposition did not attend a single meeting of the BAC," she said.

The Leader of the House went on to say that the main opposition party did not attend the session from June 10, the day the budget session began to June 25.

They missed the time for discussing the budget during this period because of their absence and it would not be proper to shift the responsibility on the government or on the Speaker.

Hasina, however, thanked BNP for what she said realising its mistake in participating Jamaat-led walkout and coming back quickly. "The session is being held in two shifts a day so that they (Opposition MPs) can take part in the budget discussion," she noted.

The Deputy Speaker, who was in the chair, said he had conveyed to Opposition Whip Jainal Abedin Faruq earlier that Saidee would be allocated 10 minutes. He also said that he had no knowledge of holding the session till 10 pm.

Zillur Rahman said nothing was communicated to the ruling party about holding of the session from 10 am to 10 pm, as claimed by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Tofael Ahmed said that BNP had 'missed the bus' by not participating in the proceedings of the House earlier and "they can't make up the lost time now."

Uttara

From Page 1

Habibul Alam said he was particularly concerned over by the high-rise structure being built in front of his house.

"They have access to the building from the Mymensingh Road, but all vehicles coming to the commercial spot would use the roads in the residential area. This would destroy the residential character of the area," he said.

Dr Amena Begum, another resident of the Sector, and a Dhaka University teacher, said the association had notified Rajuk and the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) about the sudden changes in the residential landscape. Although DCC acted on the complaint, Rajuk has remained tight-lipped, she added.

According to a DCC letter dated December 29 last year, DCC strongly condemned the act and even fined Rajuk Tk one lakh for violating its contract with the corporation. The open space was handed over to DCC for maintenance after completion of work in Uttara Model Town.

At the site construction work of several high-rise buildings was in progress. Site officials said they were doing everything in accordance with law. Asked why they were keeping the car park and other access areas in the rear of the buildings in the residential area, a site supervisor replied that only a few cars would use the rear access.

CHT Council

From Page 1

lata Chakma and Unu Ching Marma from tribal women.

The proposed Bengalee members are: Nurul Azam and Shah Ali from Rangamat, Syed Ahmed Talukdar and Sukhendu Bikash Chowdhury from Bandarban, Zafar Ahmed Sodagor and Mohammad Shafi from Khagrachhari.

Italy

From Page 1

defence in the second half, although they had nothing to show for their efforts in the first 20 minutes except two tame shots straight at the keeper from Del Piero.

The Juventus ace then summed up his whole afternoon in the 65th minute, when he again swept through and with only Grodas to beat from a dozen yards pulled his shot inches wide of the far post.

Pagliuca, who hadn't put a foot wrong all afternoon, then pulled off a stunning save in the 70th minute when he defied Chelsea's Tore Andre Flo with a close range header.

Del Piero was finally taken off in the 75th minute, making way for Parma's Enrico Chiesa.

Stig Bjorneby whistled a free-kick narrowly over Pagliuca's bar in the 85th minute, but Ronny Johnsen then sent his effort into clouds shortly after collecting a pass from substitute and Manchester United teammate Ole Solskjaer.

Norway were expending plenty of energy but getting nowhere, other than towards the tournament door marked 'exit'.

Brazil win

From Page 1

minute goal.

Zamorano tried a header, missed and Salas was there to finish off the move with a header of his own, taking his World Cup tally to four.

Cesar Sampaio headed in his first goal of a Dunga free kick in the 11th minute and he scored his second off another set piece 16 minutes later.

Roberto Carlos teed up a long-range free kick which ricocheted off the wall, Bebeto hit the ball back across the goal and Cesare Sampaio rifled in the diagonal shot.

He too could have become the first Brazilian to score a hat-trick in the World Cup finals since Pele in the 1958 semifinal against France, but he fluffed a golden chance in the 54th when Roberto Carlos found him at the post.

Goalkeeper Nelson Tapia had a miserable first half, picking up a booking and conceding a penalty when Ronaldo went sprawling over him as he rushed out to cover.

French referee Marc Batta pointed to the spot. Tapia got a touch of Ronaldo's shot with his left hand but it was not enough to prevent the striker's second goal of the finals.

Chile, without a win in the finals since 1962 when they reached the semifinals but lost 4-2 to Brazil, had few real scoring chances in the first half.

Ronaldo's Inter Milan teammate Ivan Zamorano tried a header in the third minute and Miguel Ramirez cracked a long-range blast high in the 23rd minute.

Roberto Carlos in turn hit a curling shot just over the bar in the 13th minute as the Brazilians took control.

Quake

From Page 1

of Ceyhan, site of an oil terminal, and others died in surrounding villages, the Anatolia news agency said. Ceyhan is about 60 kilometers (37 miles) east of Adana.

It was not clear whether there was damage to oil facilities. Phone lines were down.

Football fans

From Page 1

12 pm last night, police said.

Later, the barricade was removed by police. A driver of a damaged bus this morning filed a case with Panchlaish thana accusing nine people for attacking his transport last night at Baluchhara.

PDB sources informed that there was a loadshedding of about 80mw against the demand of over 300mw in Chittagong last night.

Uttara

From Page 1

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