Anwar takes oath

From Page 1 Col. 6

Speaker's chamber where the issue of Anwar Hossain's safe return home was discussed. It was apprehended by the JP leaders that he would be taken into custody if he came out of the Sangsad Bhaban since he had been absconding.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas, Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, Moudud Ahmed, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury and Anwar Hossain were present at the meeting. In the meeting, that lasted for about two hours, Anwar Hossain sought protection of the Speaker. Members of the law enforcing agencies were on guard at all the gates of the Sangsad Bhaban when the Speaker was discussing the issue in his chamber.

At about 11-30 pm, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker came out of the chamber and left the Sangsad Bhaban. Anwar Hossain and others also came out smilingly Anwar Hossain chatted with the newsmen in a relaxed mood while Moudud briefed newsmen on the outcome of the meeting.

Anwar Hossain took oath as a member of parliament Saturday afternoon at the Sangsad Bhaban. He had been absconding since the fall of the Ershad regime on December 6 last year and was elected MP with Jatiya Party ticket from Pirojpur-2 constituency in February 27 elections.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas administered oath to Artwar Hossain at his Sangsad Bhaban chamber at 2-50 pm. Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, acting leader of JP Parliamentary Party Moudud Ahmed and Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury of National Democratic Party (NDP) were present at the ceremony.

Anwar Hossain came to Speaker's chamber at 10-15 am but the administering of oath was delayed. The Speaker told reporters later that they had to examine the legal implications of such a situation.

Anwar Hossain then at tended the parliament session

4 stabbed in JCD-Chhatra Maitree clash

RAJBARI, Apr 27: Four people have been stabbed in widespread clashes between Jattyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Maitree supporters in

the town, reports UNB. Authorities today closed Rajbari Government College for a week as the armed fighting

spread to the campus. Witnesses and police said JCD workers Mehedi (20) and

Farid (21) suffered serious stabs Friday night in the town They were rushed to the Sadar Hospital. Raju, a first year student of

BA of Rajbari College, was stabbed in the college premises this morning.

The activists of JCD, the student wing of ruling BNP. allegedly ransacked three video libraries, two tailoring shops and a saloon in Hajee Market in a rampage this noon. A pedestrian was also stabbed. The clashes were in back-

lash to an incident on April 25, when Hiklu and Gobinda of Chhatra Maitree, the student front of United Communist League, were stabbed, allegedly by JCD workers.

Police went into action amid chase and counter-chase between the two student groups and said the situation was now under control. Nine rounds of bullet of different guns were setzed during the police drive.

Police are patrolling the tense town areas. No case was lodged till this evening.

Bad debts

From Page 1 Col. 5 prosecution under the law, besides the institution of departmental cases under Customs Law, he added.

The State Minister, replying to another question by Md. Mizanur Rahman Manu (Dinajpur-4), said smuggled gold, weighing 114.083 kgs. was seized in 1989-90. The setzed gold was valued at about Taka 7.69 crores.

He told the Sangsad that disbursements of foreign grants totalled about 10.45 billion US dollars (about Taka 23665.12 crores) and those of foreign loans amounted to about 11.18 billion US dollars (about Taka 26,26,441.86

crores). Giving replies to a question tabled by Nurul Islam Moni (Borguna-2), the State Minister said that the amount of foreign loans disbursements during the period July 1982 to February 1991 totalled about 7.38 billion US dollars (about

Taka 24,661.14 crores).

that began at 3-15 pm. He stayed inside the House for about 15 minutes and then left along with Moudud Ahmed.

After the question-answer hour, Mohammed Nasim, Chief Whip of Awami League Parliamentary Party, drew attention of the Speaker about the presence of Anwar Hossain in the session. He wanted to know whether the former minister had taken oath or there was still a warrant of arrest against him.

The Speaker informed the House that Anwar Hossain is an elected member of parliament and his oath was administered under the provisions of law

In reply to another query by Sudhangsu Shekhar Halder of Awami League, the Speaker said, according to rules, no MP could be arrested within the precincts of the House without obtaining his permission. He mentioned that he had not been approached for such permission.

During the break for 'Asr' prayer, Anwar Hossain passed some time at JP Parliamentary Party office in the Sangsad Bhaban. He was greeted by the MPs belonging to JP and exchanged pleasantries with them. He also talked to newsmen but declined to comment on the warrant of arrest against him.

Moudud Ahmed, who was also present there, told newsmen that the period of the 120 days' detention order under the Special Powers Act. which was served on Anwar Hossain in December, was over. As such the detention order was no more valid, he added.

"We are seeking legal protection for an MP who has already taken oath", said Moudud who claimed that the Acts which were formulated in 1963 and 1965 to exempt MPs from preventive detention were still in vogue.

He said, according to those Acts. MPs could not be put under detention during the period beginning 14 days before the session and till 14 days

after it. In reply to a question he said there was a move in 1980 to repeal the Acts, but finally it was not done. "So the laws are still alive", he asserted.

Neither Moudud nor Anwar Hossain opened their lips when newsmen wanted to know how he (Anwar) sneaked into the parliament building avoiding strict security and vigilance of the law enforcing agencies.

Anwar Hossain was staying inside the Sangsad Bhaban till writing of this report last night. A large number of members of the law enforcing agen cies were found stationed outside the gates of the Sangsad

55 pc rural

From Page 1 Col. 8 in the country.

The Minister said the poverty level is determined on the basis of the average in take per capita of food and its calorific value. To decide the poverty level on the basis on calory-intake, two measures are accepted, the first being the intake of food containing 2.150 calories and the second 2,122 calories per head.

Rahman said, on the basis of

per capita intake of 2,122 calories, a study made in 1988-89 fiscal revealed that 55 per cent rural people were living under the poverty level. A similar study in 1985-86 showed that 56 per cent of the urban people had the same standard of living. Quoting some partial statistics available with the government, the minister gave the following figures regarding the poverty level of

the country. Rural area Urban area Fiscal year 1973-74 82.9 1981-82 73.8 1988-89

(temporary) 55.0 (not assessed) Over \$ 21000m

From Page 1 Col. 7

of the loan-money. Besides, the Comptroller General of Bangladesh and Inspection, Assessment and Evaluation Department of the Planning Ministry prepare the inspection and evaluation reports on related matter, he added.

The minister said that the reports might be examined by the Public Accounts Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The minister said, the foreign loans are used under agreements signed between the Bangladesh government and the donor countries or

agencies. He added, the donors release the money on the basis of progress of the respective projects.

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Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina offering munajat at the mazar of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq on Saturday. - Star photo

Maradona's

From Page 1 Col. 8

that his information was not official because the Maradona case was being handled by judicial authorities. But all indications are that Maradona was under the effect of cocaine when he was arrested Friday in the suburb of Caballitos, the minister said.

"There is no doubt that they were using cocaine" when police arrived on the scene, Mr Mera Figueroa said in a radio interview.

Police Friday said half a kilo of cocaine was seized in the arrest, but the Interior Minister said the amount was apparently much less.

Maradona, 31, one the highest-paid players anywhere, had played for Italian soccer team Napoli. He was suspended this month for 15 months by the Italian Football Federation after he tested positive for cocaine after a match in late March.

The ban was later extended world-wide by International Federation of Association Football

 Mr Mera Figueroa said the fallen soccer idol had been under surveillance and that his arrest was made on the basis of a warrant issued by Argentine judicial authorities. The minister denied reports that Italian authorities had passed on information on alleged drug use by Maradona.

Maradona - know here as the Golden Kid — made his debut in professional soccer at age 17, and quickly grew to be regarded at one of the best players in the world.

At the peak of his career, Maradona became embrotled in several scandals, the latest of which was a paternity suit filed by a Neapolitan women.

Making two million dollars a year playing for Napoli, in addition to 10 to 13 million dollars from commercial endorsements, the feisty Maradona led a lavish lifestyle and was often seen at parties with Italy's jet set.

He returned to Argentina shortly after his suspension He and his wife have two daughters.

VANCOUVER (Canada), Apr

27 : Finance and Planning

Minister Saifur Rahman has

said Bangladesh requires and

deserves increased flow of re-

sources to support its devel-

investment in priority sectors

like agriculture, education,

health, industry, transport,

energy and power. The Finan-

ce Minister sought cooperation

from the Asian Development

Bank and other development

annual meeting of the Board of

Governments of the Asian

Development Bank held in the

Vancouver city of Canada on

ladesh had been continuously

facing stupendous challenges

in its development efforts from

wide spread poverty, a large

and growing population, pau-

city of investible resources

and recurring natural calami-

ties. He said, the government

was determined to address

these problems through rai-

sing production in agriculture

sector to accelerate the

process of desired economic

growth. He said agriculture

would be able to support the

development of other sectors

Saifur Rahman said, Bang-

He was addressing the 24th

partners in this regard.

Friday.

He said it was necessary for

opment efforts, reports BSS.

(More on Page 7)

29th death anniversary observed

Follow examples of Sher-e-Bangla

By Staff Correspondent

The 29th death anaiversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq was observed Saturday. The great leader's relentless struggle for the betterment of the downtrodden, especially of the peasants, was recalled on the day. Different political and so-

cio-cultural organisations held elaborate programmes to observe the day. These included milad mahfil, offering of fatcha and placing of wreaths at the mazar of Sher-e-Bangla. Discussions and seminars were also held.

The Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia issued separate messages on the occasion. All educational institutions

including the Dhaka University remained closed on the day as a mark of respect to former Prime Minister of undivided Bengal, Prime Minister of East Bengal and Home Minister of the then Pakistan.

Fazlul Huq Hall of the Dhaka University organised a seminar on 'Fazlul Huq as a social reformer' at its auditorium in the

Chaired by the Hall Provost Prof Abu Zafar Mahmud, the key-note paper on the topic was presented by Asafuddowla, Secretary of the Ministry of

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof M Maniruzzaman Miah attended the programme as chief guest while Justice Maksumul Hakim, Kafiluddin Mahmud, former Adviser to the Acting President, AM Mesbahuddin, former Inspector General o Police, AK Fayezul Huq, an ex-State Minister and son of Sher-e-Bangla, and Alhaj ABM Nurul Islam, a Supreme Court lawyer took part in the discussions.

Asafuddowla in his paper elaborately described Sher-e-Bangla's contributions in bringing about the emancipation of the Bangalee Muslims and his contributions in the field of education.

Saifur addresses ADB Board of Governors meet

Increased flow of resources

for development needed

Saifur Rahman said, the

1990s would be a challenging

decade for political and eco-

world for which ADB, as a re-

gional organization, had a spe-

cial responsibility to maintain

stable growth in Asia and pro-

tect the interest of the poorer

countries in the Asian regions.

He said it would be possible for

ADB to increase its lending

The minister said the gov-

ernment was playing effective

role in creating rural employ-

ment so that the progress in

the agriculture sector could be

sustained by effective demand

for goods and other agri-prod-

ucts leading to gradual capital

formation in the rural sector.

He said checking of environ-

mental degradation was one of

To achieve the objectives,

the major national objectives.

the minister said the govern-

ment would pursue appropri-

ate macro-economic reforms

He said the government was

intended to quicken measures

of poverty alleviation and hu-

man resources development

programmes to ensure increa-

singly greater involvement of

women into the main stream

of economic activities. In this

regard, he said the country

nomic development in the

more substantially.

level.

The note-paper termed Sher-e-Bangla as the best ever Bangalee Muslim and highly praised his role in reforming the then backward society in this region of undivided India.

The seminar recalled Shere-Bangla's pioneering role in removing illiteracy, poverty, and frustration from the then British-ruled country and said he helped the people become politically conscious with a view to bring about their economic freedom.

Prof Moniruzzaman Miah said the late leader awakened the majority Muslims of the region about their rights.

Justice Maksumul Hakim said the late leader would be remembered forever for his struggle against the British rulers and Zamindars. Kafiluddin Mahmud viewed

that real tributes to the late leader could only be paid by following the ideals he left for the nation. He called for the formation

of a national government in the present situation as he opined that no single political party was able to fight the problems, the nation was confronting with its vast population.

Alhaj ABM Nurul Islam commented that Sher-e-Bangla was not given proper recognition during British rule in the country.

Sher-e-Bangla Smriti Sangsad, Manabadhikar Sangathan, Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Gabeshana Kendra and Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Foundation jointly organised a Quran Khawani and Milad Mahfil at the mazar premises in the morning.

The organisations also held a joint discussion at the mazar premises.

Meanwhile, Sher-e-Bangla Smriti Sangsad awarded its annual Sher-e-Bangla Gold Medal Award to eight eminent personalities at a ceremony at Sher-e-Bangla's mazar premises in the evening.

needs the Bank's help to find

innovative projects to more

quickly accomplish the pur-

pose of involving women in de-

ernment was committed to

implement the necessary age-

nda of adjustments and macro-

economic reforms which must

be tempered with people's

aspirations and political reality.

nomic difficulties of the coun-

try were compounded by a

long-nine-year misrule by an

autocratic regime which sys-

tematically assaulted the

democratic values and institu-

tions with utter disregard to

budgetary and planning disci-

pline and made corruption

institutionalized as part of its

firm commitment to demo-

cratic pluralism, deregulation

and market-oriented economic

progress and policies, the

BNP Government aimed pri-

marily at the development of

socio-economic infrastructure.

quests to the ADB and other

countries to complete the ne-

gotiations to mobilize sufficient

funds to meet the increasing

resources needed for the

poorer countries.

He referred Bangladesh re-

The minister said, with the

economic mismanagement

The minister said the eco-

Saifur Rahman said his gov-

velopment.

PM asks Home From Page 1 Col. 7

and order situation was key to the economic development and social stability but it was regrettable that the situation had deteriorated as corruption, crime and anarchy at state level were encouraged by

individuals and the party. As a

result, she said, the economic development of the country was hampered immensely and the social instability increased. Begum Zia said, "We want the politics of production and we want to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people by

improving law and order situ-

ation".

Referring to smuggling. Begum Zia said, smuggling was destroying the country's industries and increasing unemployment. The people who were earning money through smuggling were pushing the country towards corruption and anarchy. She called upon the officials to work out policy in the light of experience to check, smuggling with the help of BDR She said, "we want to remain true to our commitments. given to the people before election'

Underlining the role of Home Ministry Begum Zia said, "My government would not interfere in the work of the min-

The Midnight File

Suhartos to perform Hajj

JAKARTA, Apr 27: President Suharto and his family will go on a religious ptlgrimage to Saudi Arabia this year, the pro-government daily Suara Karya reported Saturday. Indonesia's leading Muslim preacher, Zainuddin MZ, called on an audience of around 60,000 Muslims in the country's northernmost province of Aceh on Thursday to pray for Suharto's safety during the June pilgrimage, the newspaper said, reports AP.

ANC rejects multi-party confce

SOWETO (South Africa.) Apr 27: The African National Congress (ANC) today rejected a government invitation to a multi-party conference on ending South Africa's township violence. Nelson Mandela's movement also said state agents and rival black inkatha Freedom Party members planned to step up attacks on ANC followers in the next 10 days to wreck peace efforts, reports Reuter.

Violence claims 31 lives in Peru

LIMA, Apr 27: Clashes between leftist guerillas, soldiers and peasants claimed at least 31 lives in the southeast Andes on Friday, the army said. Maj Angel Rodriguez, spokesman for the Military Joint Command in Ayacucho, said in a telephone interview that a column of Maoist Shining Path guerillas swept into the agricultural coop of Ccanobamba, northeast of the southern highland city, killing 16 peasants, reports AP.

9 killed as rebels rocket Kabul

ISLAMABAD. Apr 27: Nine people were killed and 45 wounded when rebels fired rockets into the Afghan capita Kabul today, official Kabul radio said. A broadcast monitored in the Pakistani capital Islamabad said 23 surface-to-surface rockets were fired into residential areas. Two hit Kabul university's agriculture faculty and Habibia School, where several people were killed or wounded, reports Reuter.

2,000 US troops in S Arabia embrace Islam

DOHA, Apr 27: Around 2,000 US soldiers deployed in Saudi Arabia converted to Islam during the Gulf crisis, a senior Saudi religious officials said today. Several women and a priest of Sri Lankan origin were among those who embraced the Muslim faith, the Saudi official told the Qatari newspaper Ash-Sharo, reports AFP.

Syedabad clash victim dies in hospital

By DMCH Correspondent A college student, who was

seriously injured in Friday's clash between two rival groups of transport workers at Syedabad Bus Terminal died in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in the early hours of Saturday. Munir Hossain (18), who

resided at a house of 8/3A, Syedabad who shot on the right side of his chest, during the armed clash. A tense situation was pre-

vailing at the bus terminal throughout the day as the local mastans' who were involved in the clash remained active, witnesses said.

Resistance forces accept call for Cambodian truce

BANGKOK, Apr 27: The guerillas coalition fighting the Phnom Penh government said in a statement today it was 'very pleased' to accept an international call for a voluntary ceasefire in Cambodia, reports

The statement by the Khmer Rouge-dominated coalition followed separate remarks by the three groups welcoming the call by France, Indonesia and the UN Secretary General for a temporary truce in Cambodia.

France and Indonesia, as co-chairs of an international conference on Cambodia.

Ershad terms charges false

From Page 1 Col. 4

Witnesses (DWs). The witnesses are: 1) Lt.

General (rtd) Atiqur Rahman, former Army chief, 2) Islam Mohammad Noor Administrative Officer of the Iraqi Embassy, 3) Subedar Mohammad Shajahan, PA to the ex-President, 4) an officer of the Army Museum (not named) and 5) an arms expert of the Ordnance Factory (not named).

The deposed President in his 12-page written statement to the tribunal tried to justify his nine-year rule and his taking over of power in 1982.

The learned Judge Mohammad Habibullah considered the first eight pages of the statement as not relevant to the case and ruled that newsmen covering the Tribunal proceedings should not publish them.

The Judge said, "the first eight pages of the statement contain the description of his activities during his Presidency and are politically motivated having no bearing in the case."

He added, "I want to keep the case out of politics and above any attempt to meet a political end." He said, "Fair judgement is

the most difficult task.... one has to keep not only his shoulder high but also his back-The learned Judge inter-

rupted the accused Ershad

twice as he was making his

statement lengthy. The Judge asked Ershad to limit himself to the subject matter of the case.

"I don't think these are per-

tinent", the Judge said. "You are required to answer to the accusations," made by the Prosecution and its witnesses. Defence Counsel Advocate Sirajul Haque at this stage pleaded that under Section 342 the accused should be given the chance of a hearing without being crossed.

"It is the last communication between the accused and God-You (Judge) are the representative of God here. Under Section 342 the accused should be allowed to sing his last song." The Defence Counsel added.

"I have never seen an accused being stopped from making his statement ... for the sake of justice, if the accused wants to say something in connection with the case he should be allowed to do so."

But Judge Mohammad Habibullah quoted a ruling of the Indian High Court that the accused is required to make statement only related to the case. He however allowed Ershad to continue his state-At this stage the Attorney

General also said that the statement should be pertinent to the case and that he would also like to listen. On the charges against him, Ershad said he had received as gifts three pistols from Iraq.

one from Yemen and four DBBI guns from dignitaries who had visited Bangladesh. The Investigating Officer did not make efforts to find out the sources of these arms, he

He claimed that he received

all these gifts as the President

added.

of Bangladesh and not as the individual Ershad. Secondly, he said the President of the country was exempted from the licensing of those arms by a government

circular of November 29, 1973. He said that the word 'intermediary bore' in the notification issued by the Home Ministry in 1973 was meaningless and unrealistic. He also submitted a copy of the

notification to the Tribunal.

Moreover he said that Mustafizur Rahman (his brother-in-law) had deposited the pistols on December 24 to the Deputy Commissioner of Police Dhaka (North), who is also the Senior to the OC of

Cantonment Thana. He said that the arms deposit was made in presence of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and another Magistrate who were the Prosecution witnesses in the

Defending himself Ershad further said that the arms were not recovered in accordance with relevant rules. These were setzed from those who had prepared the inventory of articles in the Sena Bhavan.

Last of all he said that the case was contradictory to Article 52(1) of the Constitution which envisages that a President or a Vice-President shall not be answerable in any court for anything done or omitted by him in the exercise or purported exercise of the functions of his office. The accused Ershad said.

"This criminal case will re-

main as an unfortunate example which can be quashed by a fair trial".

"I don't know what fate awaits me". Ershad said in an emotion-choked voice. Ershad is to face at least eight other criminal cases in-

volving abuse of power and sustaining loss in crores of Taka to the state. In the last part of his statement Ershad said that he was kept in a condemned cell of the jail. In spite of being a former president, he was put

into a cell which was probably

constructed for a convicted

person awaiting the death sen-

tence, he added. Ershad alleged that he was being given sub-standard food and said, "I understand by such repression the government is pushing me to certain

death." Earlier Judge Mohammad Habibullah rejected an application of the Defence Counsel that demanded the recalling of a rifle the accused had given to the Army Museum.

Some bullets of that rifle are the subject matter of the case. Rejecting the plea, the learned Judge said he could not recall the rifle from the Army Museum without its specification.

For the first time yesterday Judge Mohammad Habibullah passed an order on the pressmen covering the trial that nothing of the statement made by the accused should be published without his (Judge's) certification.

According to Court proceedings the order was to have been signed by the journalists present there. The journalists then made a plea to the court that they should be exempted from signing the order.

DUJ President Zahirul Haque who was present there, said on behalf of the journalists that the order of the Court would be honoured but that the journalists should be exempted from signing the order and that the whole thing should be left to the conscience of the press as the press had been struggling for its freedom and the independence of the judiciary.

made by the journalists and relieved them of signing the order. The court was adjourned to

The Judge accepted the plea

resume hearing on April 30.