Soviet help for communications network assured

The Ambassadors of Soviet Union and Thailand and Charge d'Affaires of Libya on Thursday called on Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence, reports BSS.

The envoys, Dr Vitali S. Smirney of Soviet Union, Chatya Chandwongse of Thatland and Hamed A Abdel Wahed of Libya, during their separate meetings, congratulated Begum Zia on her party's victory in the fifth parliamentary elections.

In more than half an hour meeting with Begum Zia, the Soviet Ambassador discussed issues like friendly, economic and cultural relations existing between the two countries.

Dr Smirnov proposed to help Bangladesh in improving communications network of the country.

He said his country wanted to extend financial and technical support to Bangladesh in constructing bridges, exploring oil, gas and establishing cement industry.

The Ambassador said his country would assist Bangladesh in establishing Ghorashal Power Plant and a 440 MW nuclear energy plant.

Dr Smirnov proposed that Bangladesh could increase export of commodities in order to repay its loan to Soviet Union. He said Soviet Union had also plans to import more products from Bangladesh in future.

The Libyan Charge d'Affaires expressed possibilities of employing more Bangladeshi manpower in his country.

The Thai Ambassador invited Begum Zia to visit Thai-

Begum Zia thanked the envoys for expressing their willingness to help Bangladesh in its efforts for socio-economic development.

Officials

From Page 1 Col 5 to suspend him from the job, Foreign Ministry sources said.

Informed sources say that Lt. Khairuzzaman has joined his brother-in-law HG Mohiuddin, who happens to be the brother-in-law of Ershad in New York.

HG Mohiuddin, the Bangladesh UN Representative until his suspension, is the third official who has failed to return home.

It is learnt that both HG Mohiuddin and Lt. Khairuzzaman are trying to organise support in the United States to get Ershad released

Donors' conditions

From Page 1 Col 4

large-scale corruption and non-adherence to budgetary and economic discipline. But the entire programme for economic reforms and also the evaluation of performance under the same have so far come from the donors themselves, the Task Force says. The reforms programmes should now be assessed anew at the national level, it recommends.

The members of the Task Force were: Dr Salahuddin Ahmed, consultant to Planning Commission, Mahbubur Rahman, deputy governor, Bangladesh Bank, Dr A.K.M. Mashiur Rahman, additional secretary, Economic Relations Division (now Ministry of Finance), Dr Taufique Elahi Chowdhury, joint secretary, Ministry of Finance (now additional secretary, Establishment Division), A. M. Shamsul Huq. division chief, Planning Commission, Dr Sultan Hafeez Rahman of BIDS, Dr Omar Haider Chowdhury of BIDS, Dr Osman Haider Chowdhury of BIDS, Dr Salim Jahan, Economic Department, Dhaka University, Syed Ali Kabir, former deputy governor, Bangladesh Bank and Dr M Sohrabuddin, executive director, Bangladesh Bank.

The executive summary of the report by the Task Force suggests raising effectively the national savings rate which stands now at only four or five percent of Gross National Product(GNP). The investment level in the economy has come down from 15 or 16 per cent of GDP in the early eighties to 11 or 12 per cent in the late

eighties, it points out. The Task Force has recommended a drastic cut in non-productive expenditures in the government sector, reappraisal of on-going development projects in the light of a set of well-consistent development priorities and strict adherence to budgetary disci-

pline. It has suggested that the credit needs of the small entrepreneurs should receive utmost priority for encouraging investments in the private sector.

Editor : S. M. Ali

the polls.

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From left: Envoys of Thailand, Libya, USSR called on BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia on Thursday at BNP Banani -Star photo

Allegation of state terrorism

Benazir threatens to boycott parliament

ISLAMABAD, Mar 14: Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto accused Pakistan's government of brutal state terrorism and threatened to boycott parliament indefinitely if her supporters were robbed of seats in Thursday's Senate election, reports Reuter.

Speaking to reporters on her first visit to the capital since returning from the United States a month ago. Bhutto said provincial deputies had been kidnapped to prevent them voting in the election for half the upper house.

Members of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and allies had been arrested and tortured, she said, while five members of the Sind provincial assembly had been ab-

"Brutal and naked state terrorism was resorted to, the former Prime Minister told a news conference. The party now had to decide whether to take its campaign onto the streets.

"It is now most reluctantly that I have been compelled to examine a further boycott of the parliamentary system because of the stubborn and tyrannical attitude of the government.

would not detail her plans for street protests, but said all opposition deputies had given her letters of resignation from parliament to use as she

The former Prime Minister

Opposition deputies have

Office timing

From Page 1 Col 8

The above timing is appli-

However, Banks,

cable to all Government of

fices, Organisations and Estab-

Post, Telephone and Tele-

graph, Railway, Hospitals,

Public Industrial Organisations.

Mills-Factories and other or-

ganisations and essential ser-

vices will fix up office timing

as per their respective rules

and considering the public in-

BKSAL to work

From Page 1 Col 5

two-day extended meeting of

the party's central committee

began at 10 am at its office in

Dhaka. Representatives from

50 districts took part in the

meeting which was presided

over by BKSAL chairman Mohi-

uddin Ahmad. The meeting

was adjourned at 8 pm Thurs

Ershad spent

From Page 1 Col 2

Jatiya Party and each of 200

local clubs was given Tk 1000

He said 36 scooters, 5 jeeps

Dr. Shah Md. Emdadul Haq

and trucks were also used in

the campaign every day during

of Rangpur 1, Rahimuddin

Bharasha of Rangpur-4 Nur

Mohammed Mandal of Rangpur

-6 and other BNP candidates of

greater Rangpur district al-

leged that Ershad and Jativa

Party had bribed the adminis-

tration including police,

polling and presiding officers.

get justice from the adminis-

tration. Rana said 17 polling

centres in the five constituen-

cies from where Ershad has

been elected had been

changed just one day before

The defeated BNP candi-

dates also said Ershad donated

TV sets to every club and dis-

tributed saree and lungi

through Red Crescent. They

said the Red Crescent commit-

tee was reorganised during the

Ershad regime and it worked

in favour of Ershad.

They said that they did not

a day for electioneering.

the election campaigning.

day till 10 am Friday.

These were resolved at the

terest, the handout said.

handout said.

lishments.

boycotted the National Assembly since last month over claims of maltreatment denied by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his allies in

southern Sind province. However, they chose to take part in the Senate vote, including Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari who was brought to the National Assembly from jail in Karachi.

Zardari faces charges of kidnapping extortion and conspiracy to murder, which could bring him a death sentence if convicted.

Bhutto, who faces charges of misuse of power while Prime Minister, said she did not want to precipitate a national crisis that could invite martial law or early elections and wanted Sharif to come to terms with the opposition.

A senior Sind official said on Wednesday night the five missing deputies had been located. However, they did not appear in the provincial assembly in Karachi in early

Addressing a press conference at the PPP central secretariat here on Thursday, the former lady Prime Minister, who is also the head of the Pakistan People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) formed on the basis of the PPP, announced that the PDA had decided to further enlarge the existing alliance and to enlist greater public support for its policies.

From Page 1 Col 7

nent members of the Security

Council may begin as early as

and Washington cautioned that

there may be more than one

resolution before all the mech-

anisms for ending the war are

set out, trade sanctions against

Iraq are lifted and the with-

drawal of allied troops from

Iraq and Kuwait is completed.

complicated by the internal si-

tuation in Iraq, who is up end

who is down and if anti-gov-

ernment unrest continues."

ings by US Secretary of State

James Baker, currently touring

the Middle East and the Soviet

Union. The United States is

one of the permanent mem-

March 2 adopted Resolution

686, putting a UN seal of ap-

proval on allied conditions for

a temporary ceasefire in the

The Security Council on

bers of the council.

Much also depends on find-

said an American official.

"Everything is enormously

But US officials in New York

next week.

among the five perma-

Council of Adviser dissolved

From Page 1 Col 5 President HM Ershad and his associates.

The meeting also discussed the agenda of today's extended meeting of the party's National Executive Committee scheduled to be held at the Engineers' Institute at 10 a.m.

Begum Zia remained tight lipped on making a list of ministers. Senior leaders of the party however said she is working on it. Begum Zia who has been

elected leader of the BNP Parliamentary Party may chose her ministers and state ministers from among the following MPs : Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Col (retd) Mustafizur Rahman, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Maj Gen (retd) Majidul Hug, L.K. Siddiqui, Dr. Kh. Mosharraí Hossain, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Barrister Rafigul Islam Mia, Col (retd) Oli Ahmed, M.K. Anwar, Keramat Ali, Saifur Rahman, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Abdur Rahman Biswas, Shamsul Islam, Col(retd) Akbar Hossain, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Mirza Abbas, Amanullah Aman, Zahanara Begum, Farida Hasan, Amanullah Chowdhury, M.A. Malek and Fazlur Rahman

Mirza Golam Hafiz or President former Mohammadullah may be made speaker of the fifth parliament. Sheikh Razzak Ali may be made deputy speaker, according to sources.

The 17-member Council of

Report from Kuwait adds

The Emir of Kuwait returned

to his war-devastated home-

land today, ringed by troops

and drawing a sprinkling of

applause from an airport

Advisers which stands dis-

By Staff Correspondent

National Executive Committee

of Bangladesh Nationalist Party

(BNP) will be held at the

Engineers' Institution in Dhaka

portance to this meeting, the

first after BNP's victory in the

recent parliamentary elections

party leadership may ask

grass-roots level workers to

express their opinions on key

political issues like the forma-

tion of a government, settle-

ment of constitutional ques-

tions, political give and take

may also adopt resolutions on

the basis of discussions to be

to impress upon the workers that the prime need of the

hour is to handle the economy

bound to establish an honest

government, and they will

seek cooperation of their

workers to end corruption at

people are now more con-

cerned about the prices of

essentials than about the de-

bate on the form of govern-

ment raised by some political

stand on the upazilas, and how

the district councils will be

run during its rule will also

ducing overhead expenditure

at the upazila level, according

Demand for

stepping up

Ershad's trial

ganisations of BNP in a joint

statement here Thursday de

manded to expedited the trial

of Ershad and his cronies so

that no autocrat could come to

concern at the procrastination

of the trial of the deposed

president and his accomplices

because of the 'evil designs of

some quarters' and warned

that such conspiracy would not

be tolerated and a mass

movement would be waged to

to remain alert against such

designs and said the deposed

regime was trying to create

anarchy in the country to foil

the verdict of the people with

the indirect collaboration of

some quarters following their

defeat in the recent polls.

"They are doing this so that a

stable government, democracy

and people's rights can not be

established in the country",

The leaders demanded ar-

rest of these conspirators

without delay and called upon

all party workers and the na-

tion as a whole to resist these

joint statements are: Presi-

dents and secretaries Iskander

Ali and Nazrul Islam Khan of

Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Mirza

Abbas, MP-elect an l Gayesh

war Roy of Jubadal, Khurshid

Ali and Zahid Hossain Chunnu

of Jasass, Nabab Begum Sham-

sunnahar Ahsanullah and Sar-

wari Rahman of Mahila Dal

convenor of Krishak Dal Abdul

Mannan MP-elect and con-

venor of Sechchashevak Dal

Kazi Asaduzzaman.

The leaders who issued the

the statement said.

forces.

They also urged the people

resist this.

The leaders expressed their

power in future, reports BSS.

The leaders of the front or-

The party is in favour of re-

come up for discussion.

to one source.

Local issues like BNP's

Some BNP leaders feel the

all levels, insiders say.

BNP leaders are pledge-

The Executive Committee

Leaders of the party may try

and the economic situation.

held in the meeting.

efficiently.

parties.

Political pundits attach im-

A BNP insider says, the

today (Friday).

An extended meeting of the

solved from today was appointed by Justice Shahabuddin after he took over

The Advisers were drawn from different walks of life not associated with any political parties to help the Acting President run his interim gov ernment. They did not participate in the last parliamentary

December 6 from HM Ershad

overthrown in mass upsurge.

The Advisers were: Kafiluddin Mahmood, MA Khaleque, Prof Wahiduddin Ahmed, A M Anisuzzaman, Kazi Fazlur Rahman, Prof Yeazuddin Ahmed, A B M G Kibria, B K Das, Prof Rehman Sobhan, Fakhruddin Ahmed, A K M Musa, Rafiqul Islam Imamuddin Ahmed, Alamgir M Kabir, Chowdhury A K M Aminul Hug, Dr Zillur Rahman Siddigi and Dr M A Mazed.

The Acting President on March 2 told a BNP delegation led by Begum Khaleda Zia a new cabinet (with BNP) may be formed within a week. But the move was opposed by Awami League and Jatiya Party.

BNP emerged single major ity party in the parliamentary elections with 139 seats followed by Awami League's 88, Jatiya Party 35 and Jamaat-e-Islami 18. Jamaat has formally supported BNP for forming government.

Meanwhile, the 'newly elected MPs are set to take oath on March 17-19. The Chief Election Commissioner will administer the oath Parliament was summoned to meet April 5.

death in eve-teasing

From Our Correspondent

while the annual sports meet of a girls' school was in progress.

when the boy, aged 14, got into an eve-teasing brawl with a group of youngsters who were also watching the sports meet of Ihsan Girls High School.

Pancha indiscriminately killing him on the spot and wounding another minor boy, Musa.

Later, towns people brought out a procession and called for a 24-hour hartal Friday to protest the killing.

democracy-loving people. The meeting also warned

that the AL would launch a movement to resist the conspiracy against 'handing over of power to a sovereign parliament.

served that if a presidential election was held in the country there would be a good opportunity for ousted President Ershad to stage a comeback to the political arena and even to power unless he was convicted by the court.

served that the elections were rigged in a subtle way and that the unity among anti-Awami League forces and reactionary groups had caused the Awami League debacle.

its concern over the increase in prices of all essential commodities following the elections and the deteriorating law and order situation.

Patuakhali, a victory proces-

immediate release of Abdul Kader Siddiky and condoled the death of Principal Abul Kashem and Syed Abdus Sul-

BNP executive The Midnight File body meet today

China warns govts against contact with Dalai Lama

BEIJING, Mar 14: China warned all governments today against contact with the Dalai Lama, three days before the Tibetan spiritual leader was scheduled to arrive in Britain We are against the undertaking of political activities by the Dalai Lama in any capacity in any other country." Foreign Ministry spokesman Duan Jim told a weekly news briefing. reports AFP.

Honecker's trial likely this year

BONN, Mar 14: Former East German Communist leader Erich Honecker could face a criminal trial this year, if Moscow agrees to hand him over to German justice officials, Berlin's chief prosecutor said in an interview published Thursday. Honecker, 78, has been charged in connection with the deaths of would-be escapes over the Berlin Wall and across the now-vanished border dividing East and West Germany, reports AP.

Five killed in plane crash

SEOUL Mar 14: A South Korean Air Force plane crashed today on a routine training mission in a remote mountain area, killing five officers and crew, a Defence Ministry spokesman said. The spokesman said the C-123 aircraft lost one of its wings in the air before it plunged into a hill and was engulfed in flames. He could give no further details, reports Reuter.

\$650 m US aid for Israel

WASHINGTON, Mar 14: The US Senate gave final approval to a 650 million dollar emergency aid package to help Israel cover its costs from the Gulf war. The same measure was adopted earlier by the House of Representatives and now must be signed by President George Bush, reports

472 killed in Malawi flood

BLANTYRE (Malawi), Mar 14: Flash floods that washed away roads, crops and homes near this southern town killed at least 472 people, including some refugees from Mozambique's civil war, Malawi's official news agency said Thursday. The floods, set off by flerce rains Sunday, affected about 20,000 residents of Mulanje, a southeastern district near the Mozambican border, reports AP.

Criminals to be tattooed

PORT MORESBY (Papua New Guinea), Mar 14: The Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliv announced Thursday that authorities would start tattooing the foreheads of convicted criminals, impose a curfew and reinstate the death penalty in an effort to halt a growing crime save. He said the deteriorating law-and-order situation is the gravest threat facing this South Pacific island nation of 3.75 million people, reports AP.

Yeltsin denied speech on TV

MOSCOW, Mar 14: Russia's controversial President Boris N Yeltsin has been denied permission to speak to the nation on state television before this weekend's referendum on national unity, Yeltsin's spokeswomen said Thursday, Rebel Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin says he regrets a recent speech in which he declared war on the leadership of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, report AP, Reuter.

Military for state of emergency

Y'slav students force concessions

BELGRADE, Mar 14: Yugoslavia's collective presidency planned Thursday to reconsider imposing a nationwide state of emergency sought by the military. Five days of demonstrations against Communist rule in Serbia ended earlier in the day, reports AP.

A new session of the eightman body, made up of representatives of each of Yugoslavia's six republics and two provinces, was to discuss the issue, said Stipe Mesic, Croatia's representative.

The session was to start at 1100 GMT.

Politicians and the media in Yugoslavia's liberal northern states of Slovenia and Croatia have accused Serbia's hardline Marxist President Slobodan Milosevic of seeking a state of emergency in order to save his embattled administration.

The army openly supports

the Scrbian Socialist or renamed Communist — leaders in their demand to keep Yugoslavia a Marxist federation. The military asked the presidency to impose the state of emergency.

On Wednesday a crowd es-

timated at 25,000 packed Belgrade's Republic Square and demanded new elections in The demonstrators dispersed early Thursday after

organizers said that all of their demands had been met or were about to be fulfilled. The protests have posed

the strongest challenge yet to Milosevic. His Socialist Party overwhelmingly won elections last December. The protesters, mostly stu-

dents, condemned a police as sault against demonstrators Saturday that left two people dead and about 120 injured.

work force for employment in "We are in close with

American, British and Saudi companies which have got contracts for reconstruction works in the war-devastated

The Adviser informed that all possible measures were being undertaken to expatriate the Bangladeshis who were displaced by the Gulf crisis.

On the so-called Swadhin Bangabhumi Andolon, the Adviser said "some disgruntled politicians who have been resorting to such activities, according to his information, do not get support either from government of India or

They are doing this only for cheap publicity". Fakhruddin added.

Activists of the so-called Swadhin Bangabhumi Andolon, emerged on the soil of India, were reportedly gearing up its movement and planned to hold a long march towards Jessore border from Bongaon Railway Station on March 25.

A procession was brought out at the end of the rally which paraded the main thoroughfares of the city.

Unless released From Page 1 Col 8

said the executive committee meeting of Jatiya Party has not yet taken any decision whether the party MPs will take oath An extended meeting of the

committee is now being held at the Royal Auditorium of Gulshan. The meeting will resume this morning. When asked whether

Ershad was communicated the decision, Mizan Chowdhury said that he will obviously come to know about the decision through newspapers. He said the party is now ac-

tively considering an action programme for release of Ershad and other party leaders. The party meeting will elect other JP Parliamentary Party leaders, he

According to party insiders, there is difference of opinions among Jatiya Party MPs about taking oath. Some of the MPs are in favour of taking oath and join the first parliament session in order to launch a movement inside and outside parliament to realise their demands.

The JP Parliamentary Party has elected Ershad chairman of the Parliamentary Party. Party's Secretary General

Shah Moazzem who was released on Tuesday did not attend the executive committee meeting yesterday due to his iliness.

Ershad's hearing

Iraqi unrest

From Page 1 Col 4. persons under Martial Law Courts, punished them with various sentences, including death, without any provision for appeal, and thereby created

a reign of terror. It also pointed out that the ex-President had affairs with so many women as widely published in many leading newspapers and weeklies.

Aminul Haque argued that the past activities and background of the former President should be considered for issuance of detention. In this context, he said a political movement, as crystalised between Oct 10 and Dec 14, would manifestly indicate the prejudicial activities of Ershad.

The Attorney General also added that the Ershad-government had released two student leaders from jail to break unity by unleashing terror in the university area and also Dhaka City.

The hearing the detention of Begum Raushan Ershad has ended.

The judgements of both the detention matters of Ershad and Raushan Ershad would be delivered after hearing on HM Ershad's detention ends.

Kazi Shahadat Hossain with Advocate Shaikh Rezaul Karim

crowd two weeks to the day after Gulf war ended. It was not clear where he would stay. His palace was gutted by occupation forces.

He is also under pressure from the allies and many of his countrymen to introduce sweeping political reforms. His state is still without wa-

ter, electricity, telephones or regular food supplies. AFP From Geneva adds : A

group of 500 captured Iraqi soldiers will on Friday return home on a road cleared of mines, making the resumption of the release of prisoners of war, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said today.

Xinhua from Beijing adds: earliest possible date.

China today called for a fair and reasonable solution of the Middle East question at the

appeared for Ershad. Aminul Haque, Attorney General was on his leg when the Court rose for the day. During Thursday's session, a group of over 350 slogan-

chanting agitators entered the

Supreme Court premises and demanded severe punishment to the former President. The agitators used loudspeakers at will taking advantage of the noted absence of members of the law enforcing

agencies. They paraded the Court premises with impunity with members of the law enforcing agencies seen trailing them

only in their departure. Senior members of the Supreme Court Bar have expressed their resentment over the incident and have urged all concerned to allow the judiciary to function independently.

Supreme Court Bar to be on guard against any such incident in future. One of the lawyers representing Ershad told this correspondent, when contacted, that the incident made him feel insecure and it will be difficult for him to represent his

client before the highest seat

of justice.

They also called upon the

administration and the

Boy stabbed to brawl

FARIDPUR, Mar 14: Pancha Sarkar, a student of class eight was stabbed to death today

The incident occurred

Boys of the group stabbed

AL meeting From Page 1 Col 7

'sovereign parliament,' the meeting said, adding that the debate over the handing over of power was an unnecessary issue aimed at confusing the

The meeting further ob

The meeting further ob-

The meeting also expressed The meeting alleged that in

sion of a Party attacked the shops and houses of people of the Hindu community and on March 11 Awami League candidate Altaf Hossain of Magura was attacked by a group of miscreants. The meeting demanded the

pation in extensive reconstruction and rehabilitation works in the war-ravaged Gulf states Fakhruddin said that process was being worked out to re-

Dhaka hails US move for ME solution

Bangladesh has welcomed the recent US move for establishing peace in the Middle-East, reports UNB.

Adviser on Foreign Affairs, Fakhruddin Ahmed in an interview Thursday praised US Secretary of State James Baker's current mission to different Middle-East countries in search of a comprehensive solution of the problems in the Fakhruddin expressed satis-

Arab leaders, particularly the representatives of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation "Baker's visit has raised some degree of optimism which needs to be sustained',

faction over dialogues between

the US Secretary of State and

He also observed that prospects for durable peace in the Middle-East seemed brighter now than ever before. The Secretary said the American commitment for a peaceful solution of the prob-

he said.

About Bangladesh's partici-

cruit about 5000 Bangladeshi liberated Kuwait.

country", he added.

Government of West Bengal".

lems is an important develop-