

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a seminar at Osmany Memorial Hall on the occasion of the observance of World Health Day Sunday. -PID photo

## Effective steps to face calamities: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday spelt out her government's firm resolve to take "more effective steps" in implementing flood control programmes and facing other natural calamities, she identified, as the main hindrance to development, reports UNB.

"If we don't take the right steps in facing the calamities. the country's economic activities will be rendered uncertain", she said at a discussion in observance of the World Health Day at the Osmani Memorial Hall Sunday morn-

In this context, the Prime Minister referred to the recommendations of the Socio-Economic Committee on tackling floods and different natural calamities.

The discussion, organised by the Bureau of Health Education was addressed. among others, by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf as special guest, Health and Family Welfare Secretary

Khandker Asaduzzaman, WHO Representative in Bangladesh ANA Abeyesundere, Joint Secretary at the Health Ministry MA Mannan Chowdhury and Director General of Health Services MAT Siddig.

Ministers, MPs and members of the diplomatic corps were present.

This year's theme of the World Health Day is: "Should Disaster Strike - Be Prepared".

Begum Zia said calamities which come all on a sudden inflict irreparable damages. But, she pointed out, all disasters are not altogether unexpected.

Natural calamities like floods and cyclones are seasonal and can be predicted on the basis of experience and modern scientific knowledge

The Prime Minister stressed on the development of early preparedness method, construction of cyclone and flood shelters, and emergency medical activities to face the calamities.

## Sovereignty of JS

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas said there was nothing wrong in it. April 5 was a Friday and the thing could not be taken up due to shortage of time. There were also precedents of felicitating the Speaker days after his election.

Rashed Khan Menon of Workers Party congratulated the Speaker and urged all MPs to observe the rules and procedures of the House.

Suranjit Sengupta of Ganatantri Party called for immediate introduction of a bill for introduction of parliamentary democracy to establish an accountable govern

Matiur Rahman Nizami said the parliament should be turned into a forum of accountability for materialising the hopes and aspirations of students and the masses who earned the victory of the nineyear movement against autoc-

Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury of National Democratic Party welcomed the Speaker the Deputy Speaker as well as the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.

Abdur Razzak of BKSAL said that the people have rejected the presidential system and one-man rule.

Shamsuddoha of the Communist Party of Bangla-

desh called for introducing a constitutional amendment bill

### Moudud's bail

From Page 1 Col. 8 produce original copy of the

deed of his house to the court. The order of stay by the Vacation Bench came Sunday on a provisional application moved by Attorney General Aminul Huq for leave to appeal and opposing the bail granted to Moudud.

Moving the application the Attorney General said that there was possibility of Maudud's absconding as he was facing a corruption case involving about Tk five crore.

Moudud Ahmed filed an seeking application adjournment for four days on the ground that his senior counsel was not present. His application was not opposed by the Attorney General but a prayer was made for stay of the judgement for four days.

The Attorney General was assisted by Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiya.

### One stabbed By Staff Correspondent

One person was stabbed to death by miscreants near Moulavi Bazar Community

Centre on Sunday morning.

of meteorology, she said.

in keeping with the joint

declaration of the three alliances Shahjahan Siraj of JSD (Siraj) said the present parliament was unique in that no party had an overwhelming majority in it. He hoped that the new parliament would take initiatives to establish the rights of the people which remained neglected for the

last 20 years. Motuddin Ahmed of BKSAL called for introduction of a bill to give institutional shape to sovereign parliament'

Prof Abdul Haftz of NAP (M). Moulana Abdus Subhan of Jamaat, independent members Nurul Islam Moni and Maj (retd) Hafijuddin, Ansar Ali of Jamaat also spoke on the mo-

in reply Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas expressed his gratitude to all for felicitating him and the Deputy Speaker.

He said the parliament elected by a free fair election after years of movement was unique. The people got their right to vote which was destroyed before. The turn out of voters was also higher, he said.

The Speaker expressed his confidence that the parliament would be able to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people.

### 400 killed in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Apr 7: Nearly 400 people have been killed in the past week in Sri Lanka in battles between security forces and Tamil separatist guerillas, security sources said today.

### Status issue

From Page 1 Col. 8 matter would be settled the way the House wanted.

Mohiuddin Ahmed of BAKSAL said the walkout might be a small incident, but marked a dangerous start of the journey of the House. He said the opposition had hit at the right place in its struggle to establish a sovereign parliament.

Tofael Ahmed of AL said the Treasury Bench should take the maximum initiative to make the parliament effective, but such initiative was lacking.

Other opposition members. Matiur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat, Monirul Huq Chowdhury of Jatiya Party, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury of National Democratic Party. Suranjit Sengupta of Ganatantri Party. Shamsuddoha of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Obaidul Huq of Islami Oikya Jote and Mohammad Nasim of AL also spoke on the occasion.

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### Ershad sick

From Page 1 Col. 7

locking and sealing of the Sena Bhaban and making an inventory of articles recovered from the place.

Defense Lawyer (DL) : Do you know all the items which were recovered from Sena Bhaban?

Garrison Engineer (GE) : 1 will know almost all the items. DL: Without any list?

GE: Yes. DL: When you went for preparing the inventory, did

you take any list with you? GE: (taking time to think) Judge: Did the members of the committee take any list

there prior to the inventory? DL: Did you carry any list? GE: Yes, I carried a list of the goods which were supplied by the MES to the Sena

Bhaban. DL: Are there any minutes of the discussions of the inventory committee after December 12 ?

GE: There are no minutes. but there are resolutions which may be found in the file. DL: Is it mentioned in the

resolution that Mustafizur Rahman had identified the guns? GE: I can not remember.

DL: You did mention personal' against all recovered items except against the guns. Why did you do so? Do you know everything that was found in the house? GE: I am the representative

of MES. I can find out almost all the items which were supplied by the MES. But I have a little knowledge about other items.

DL: There is no mention of bullets in the personal list. GE: I can tell about that if I

see the list. DL: There was no mention of bullets in the inventory list and the list of personal items had no mention about the fire

GE: The list is with the inventory committee

Judge: (with note of exclamation) is there no mention of arms in the list?

At this stage the Judge wanted to see the list. But he said that the said list was not that list of items recovered from the Sena Bhaban.

DL: (turning to witness) You had discussed about the arms that and had no licence?

GE: We could not take any decision when we discussed it the first time.

DL: Was the decision imposed from the top? GE: I don't remember. DL: Could you take a deci-

sion within December 26? GE: We took a decision after December 24.

DL: Do you have any minutes on the discussion? GE: We took decision after December 24. I can't remember whether there was any resolution. If there was any

committee. DL: Did you take any decision resolving that these were not gifts?

resolution it will be with the

GE: We had no proof that the arms were gifts. DL: Did you take any deci-

sion that these items were not GE: We did not take any

decision. I can't remember. DL: Did you seek any guideline from the higher authority?

GE: I don't know. DL: Was there any guideline from the top bosses? At this he recited from Tagore "Whenever something is lost, wife says Kesta (pointing to Ershad) must have taken it.

GE : I don't know . DL: Did you recommend lodging a case against Ershad? GE : No.

DL: Do you know that Ershad had deposited a weapon at the army museum? GE : I don't know.

Then the Defense Lawyer put suggestion before the tribunal. The suggestion was: The witness does not know that Ershad had deposited a gun to the army museum and the eleven bullets found in the Sena Bhaban were the bullets of that gun.'

Garrison Engineer Talim Hussain did not differ with this suggestion.

After the cross-examination the witness approached Ershad in the dock to show his respect. However the Attorney General Aminul Haq stopped him from talking with the ac-

## 5 police personnel

Sub-Inspector Mofazzal reliable sources said.

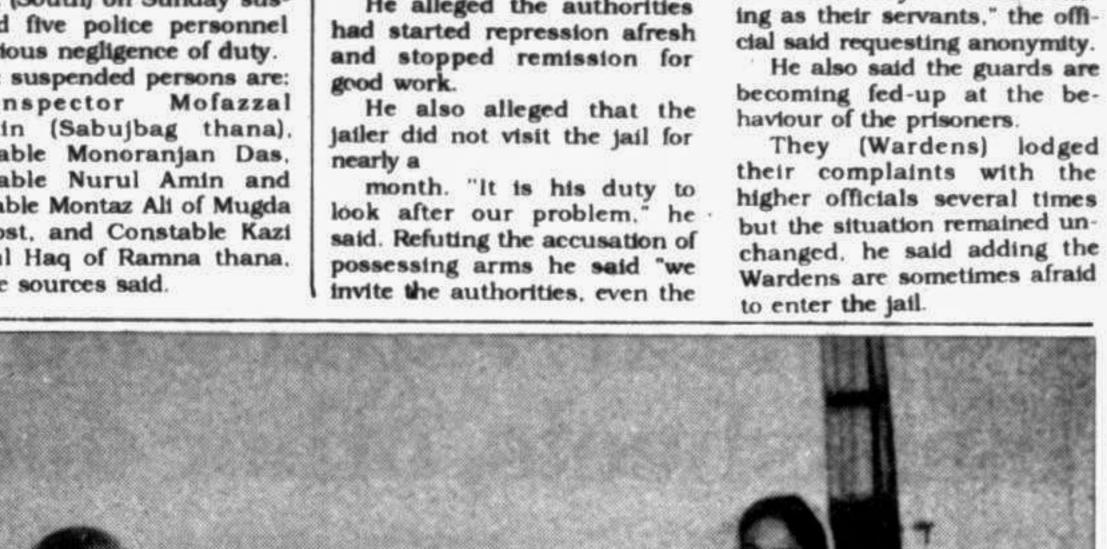
# suspended

Dhaka (South) on Sunday sus-

By Staff Correspondent Deputy Commissioner,

pended five police personnel for serious negligence of duty. The suspended persons are:

Hossain (Sabujbag thana) Constable Monoranjan Das, Constable Nurul Amin and Constable Montaz Ali of Mugda out post, and Constable Kazi Zahirul Haq of Ramna thana.



"Situation in Dhaka Central

Jail was calm and quiet,"

Jashimuddin, who led the

December 29 jail revolt and

still serving 20 years' impris-

onment, told The Daily Star

refuting authorities' charge of

complete lawlessness in the

and colonial system of the au-

thorities. So they are blaming

us", the bearded and bespec-

fresh movement if their de-

mand of donating Tk. 10 lakh

among the families of the four

who were killed in police fir-

ing during December revolt

was ignored. The money was

saved by their 17-day hunger

strike following the revolt, he

He alleged the authorities

He said they would start

tacled leader said.

"We stopped the corruption

Central Jail calm, says

leader of revolt

By Asiuzzaman

army, to search our cells."

with a strict hand.

to count us.

the interview.

He said, however, there was

a zone for addicts inside the

jail were some 100 prisoners

sometimes tried to create

chaos but we controlled them

of abusing the 'Mian Sahibs'

(wardens) and said 'we have

good relations'. "We go to the

lock-ups timely," he said a al-

leging that the Deputy Jailer

and Wardens come afterwards

Other leaders Akter

Meanwhile, a jail official

Hossain, Gazi Kamrul Huda and

Nishan were present during

said the situation in Dhaka

Central Jail was unchanged

and was under prisoner's con-

trol on Sunday. "We are work-

He also dented the charge



AL Chief and Leader of Opposition Sheikh Hasina called on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at his residence on Sunday. -PID photo

# Maiden walkout

From Page 1 Col. 4

Shahjahan Siraj supported the demand for upgrading the status of the Leader of the Opposition by placing her name next to the Leader of the House in the Business Advisory Committee.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia sat tight-lipped when uproar ruled the House. Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina did not take part in the discussions, but she announced the withdrawal of her name from the committee and then staged a walkout.

Clarifying the order of placement of names in the Business Advisory Committee, the Speaker earlier told the House that it was done in keeping with the practice followed by the Sangsad in 1986 and before.

The opposition members were, however, not satisfied at this clarification. They sought to drive home the point that the Sangsad of 1991 is not the same as before. It is the outcome of the people's movement for democracy, they said while demanding that the status of the Leader of the Opposition should be upgraded for efficient functioning of the Business Advisory Committee.

Taking the floor, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad said, the two main leaders of the mass movement against autocracy are in the Jatiya Sangsad, one as the Leader of the House and the other as the Leader of the Opposition. The status of the Leader of the Opposition should be upgraded considering the sentiments of the House, he maintained.

Sudhangshu Shekar Haldar, quoting the Rules of Procedure, said the name of the Leader of the Opposition should be placed next to that of the Leader of the House in the Business Advisory Committee. Local Government, Rural

Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Samad Talukdar disagreed with Halder's contention. The Rules of Procedure does not define the status of the Leader of the Opposition, he contended. Awami League member Tofael Ahmed pleaded for upgrading the status of the Leader of the Opposition for better cooperation and under-

standing between the Treasury

Bench and the Opposition for

smooth functioning of democ-

racy. He said, four offices,

namely those of the Speaker,

the Deputy Speaker, the

Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition are major planks of the House. It is essential that the persons holding such offices should be shown proper respect for upgrading the status of the Sangsad itself, he said.

He said the Warrant of Precedence under the autocratic regimes in the past was disrespectful even to the members of the Sangsad. This should not continue any further, if the Sangsad is to become a respectable institution, he stated. He added that the Leader of the Opposition did not sit in any meeting of the **Business Advisory Committee** constituted in 1986 because it degraded her status. He demanded that a shadow cabinet status should be given to the

Opposition in the House. Suranjit Sengupta of Ganatantri Party said the status of the Leader of the Opposition in the sixth position could not be seen as a healthy practice for restoring sovereignty of the Parliament to which the three political alliances are commit-

National Democratic Party member Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury observed that the positioning of the name of the Leader of the Opposition in the **Business Advisory Committee** might be an unintentional one. Necessary corrections should be brought to facilitate smooth transactions of business by the House, he felt.

Matiur Rahman Nezami leader of the Jamaat Parliamentary Group, supported the contention about upgrading the status of the Leader of the Opposition. This will adorn the Jatiya Sangsad with more respect, he maintained.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas told the House that the question about order of placement of the name of the Leader of the Opposition could be discussed later. But, the members of the

Opposition were still restive. The Speaker gave the floor to Irrigation and Flood Control Minister Majedul Huq. The minister said the demand of the Opposition on the issue was not consistent with the Warrant of Precedence. It places the Leader of the House and Prime Minister. Deputy Prime Ministers and ministers in order of precedence, he added. He said the Leader of the Opposition was given the rank and status of a full cabinet minister and placed next to the ministers in the Warrant of Precedence.

The minister said, if any amendments are made to the Warrant of Precedence by those who prepare it, the Treasury Bench will have no

objection. Later, the House took up its other business for the day. The Opposition in the meanwhile staged their walkout.

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder introduced the Union Parishad and Pourasava (Special Responsibility) Bill, 1991 Treasury Bench member Abdul Matin Chowdhury (Narayanganj) then moved a motion of thanks to the Acting President for delivering an address to the House on April 5.

### Hasina's concern

From Page 1 Col. 8 or for that purpose, any other ministry to the Prime Minister, who is not the head

of the government. Sheikh Hasina apprehended that the machinery of the administration including the police force controlled by Home Ministry could be used against the political rivals, particularly against the Awami League workers and this act of the Acting President would affect

his neutral character. She also apprehended that the authority thus transferred. was exercised by the party in power, there cannot be free and fair by elections in the 10 vacant seats of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The Acting President told the Leader of the Opposition that in case of any injustice caused to any person of party affiliations, he would certainly interfere.

Sheikh Hasina earlier thanked the Acting President for his inaugural speech in the Jatiya Sangsad on Friday in which, she said, he had highlighted the real problems of the country including the economic conditions.

### Women held with 10 gms of heroin

A special squad of the Directorate of Narcotic Control has arrested one woman named Bakul with 10 grammes of heroin from Tejgaon Railway Colony in Dhaka on Sunday. reports BSS.

Bakul was arrested with the heroin when the squad raided the colony Saturday on a tip off. She was selling heroin to the drug addicts of the area for quite a long time.

## The Midnight File

### Pak-China missile deal

WASHINGTON, Apr 7: US intelligence agencies have recently spotted inside Pakistan what appeared to be a number of launch vehicles for Chinese-made M-11 ballistic missiles, raising suspicion that China and Pakistan have concluded a missile deal contrary to Beijing pledges to Washington, reports PTI.

### Turkey to purchase Patriots

ANKARA. Apr 7: Turkey has been negotiating with a US company on a 1-billion-dollar purchase of 10 batteries of the US Patriot anti-missile system.

## Seen from the gallery

From Page 1 Col. 5

Advisory Committee putting Shetkh Hastna's name stxth in line. Tofael Ahmed took the floor and demanded the upgrading of the Leader of the Opposition to institutionalise democracy and establish sovereignty of the Parliament.

Agriculture Minister Majedul Huq stated that in the Warrant of Precedence, the position of the Leader of the Opposition comes after the Prime Minister's. Deputy Prime Minister's, and Ministers'

The Speaker pointed out that Sheikh Hasina's name as Leader of the Opposition in the 1986 Parliament was much below the present serial.

Tofael Ahmed quipped. There is much difference between the Parliament of 1986 and the Parliament of 1991'. This gave the ruling party a good opportunity to criticise those who were in the 1986

Sheikh Hasina listened to the debate which was participated by Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Salahuddin Quader Choudhury, Matiur Rahman Nizami and Shahjahan Siraj. They requested the Speaker to upgrade the position. Shetkh Hastna then with-

Speaker's decision and later announced the decision to stage a walkout. Besides Majedul Huq and Abdus Salam Talukder none from the Treasury Bench took

drew her name from the

Committee protesting the

part in the debate. The Jamaat-e-Islami was in a fix while the other opposition members were walking

Matiur Rahman Nizami.

leader of Jamaat Parliamentary

Party walked alone to the door followed by none of his party members. He then came back and organised the walkout. The situation was confusing

because the Jamaat has backed the BNP to form the govern-It seemed that although the Jamaat decided to back the

BNP in forming the govern-

ment it will support the Awami League in the Parliament. The Jamaat came under a strong attack from Mohiuddin of BKSAL who requested the Speaker to allot Jamaat's seats in the Treasury Bench as they have extended their support to

He cited the example of Rajiv Gandhi who was asked by the Speaker to sit in the Treasury Bench when his Congress party supported the Chandra Shekhar government

the BNP government.

The Jamaat probably tried to save the situation by joining the ranks of the Opposition in the walkout embarrassing the BNP government.

The walkout was also joined by the Jatiya Party members. . Better late than never. The House finally felicitated the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker on Sunday, two days after their being elected Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina took the lead and felicitated the Speaker and the

She assured the Speaker of her full cooperation and sought his neutrality in conducting the affairs of the House. Everybody was critical of

the lapses on the first day as

Deputy Speaker.

no one welcomed the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. It was later revealed by Tofael Ahmed that the BNP set the convention by felicitating the Speaker exactly after two days in 1979.

Rashed Khan Menon defended the convention set by the BNP which was retorted by other opposition members. Some called him a dalal (collaborator) of the ruling

seat in the Treasury Bench. . Leader of the House Prime Minister Khaleda Zia came to the House seemingly rehearsed for the felicitation. She sought the permission of the Speaker to read the pre-

party and asked him to take a

pared text of her speech. · Akhtaruzzaman Babu of Chittagong rose on a faulty point of order again on Sunday

.. During the felicitation

He objected to the Prime Minister's reading the written speech without knowing that members can do it with the Speaker's permission. He was snubbed by his party leaders.

some of the members mentioned the places of their acquaintance with the Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas Mohtuddin Ahmed said that he met the Speaker at school in hts boyhood while Suranjit saw

him in the corridor of the Supreme Court. Major (rtd) Hafizuddin said he met him in the kitchen without mention-

ing whose kitchen. Elderly parliamentarian Mohiuddin Ahmed said in his speech that Speaker (Abdur Rahman) Biswas' (meaning

trust) should not be distrusted. The Speaker may not have breached the trust but was seemingly biased towards the members from his home district greater Barisal.

He allowed at least five members from Barisal to felicitate him. They are Mohiuddin Ahmed, Rashed Khan Menon. Major (rtd) Hafizuddin, Nurul Islam Mont and Tofael Ahmed. · The Treasury Bench

members seemed to be less

enthusiastic in taking part in the proceedings. Besides, only a few of them took part in any Prof. Jahanara Begum of BNP accused the Speaker of giving chance to opposition members only. But except Jahanara Begum none showed

any interest to felicitate the

Prof. Badruddoza Choudhury

Speaker.

who was very active in the 1979 Parliament seemed to be a little tired. His sense of humour and witty comments were missing in the House. Mirza Golam Haftz who was Speaker in the Second

Parliament does not take much

interest probably due to his ill Next to them are Major General (rtd) Majedul Huq. Col. (rtd) Mustafizur Rahman. Col (rtd) Oli Ahmed, Saifur Rahman, M. K. Anwar and Keramat Ali who showed no enthusiasm in rising on a point

The House seemed lifeless at one stage as the debate was one sided. It was an all opposition show in the House on

of order or taking part in any

Sunday. The Leader of the House remained tight lipped in the

House all the time. The House can only be lively if members of both sides take active part in the debates. . The BNP and the Awami

League again drew their line of battle in the House. Sheikh Hasina concluded her felicitation speech with Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu', while Khaleda Zia said 'Bangladesh

Zindabad', at the end of her \* The House seems likely to be deprived of duel of words between the Leader of the House Khaleda Zia and the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, as the former

speaks very little in the House. . The Awami League is not always inimical to Jamaat-e-Islami, atleast not in the parliament. When Mohiuddin Ahmed requested the Speaker to allocate the Jamaat members' seats in the Treasury Bench Awami League members banged the table in jubilation. But when Mattur Rahman Nizami supported Tofael Ahmed's submission to upgrade the statues of Sheikh Hasina he was greeted by Awami League MPs in the same

Treasury Bench members reminded the Awami League of their understanding with the Jamaat in the 1986 Parliament election. Jamaat members remained silent on the controversy. Mattur Rahman Nizami, leader of the Jamaat Parliamentary Party seems to be shy and not quite able to rebuff accusations of his op-

. Jatiya Party MPs stood in silence with the other members for a minute to show respect to the martyrs who were killed during the Ershad regime.

They seemed to be helpless in the House and supported their adversaries in condemning their regime in silence. Religious interpretation is

no more Jamaat's monopoly. Awami League leaders Matia Choudhury and Mujibul Bashar

spoke on religion on the day. Matia Choudhury even questioned Jamaat's interpretation of showing respect by standing. The Speaker in his ruling upheld Matia's view that one can pray while standing or sit-Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani,

Railway Minister of Pakistan and Special Envoy of the Pakistan Prime Minister witnessed the proceedings of the House on Sunday morning. He was sitting in the President's gallery along with the Pakistan High Commissioner to