

TRUCKLOAD OF BODIES: Some of the dead in Monday's bus accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway being removed from the spot. - Star photo



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited the injured in the bus accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway at DMCH Monday. - PID photo

Diarrhoea See Page 10 Col. 8

The people of the areas feared further spread of the disease as Godagari upazila was affected afresh on Monday.

Nine temporary camps have been set up in the affected areas where 18 medical teams were working round the clock. the sources added.

Local people alleged scarcity of medicine and problem with transportation of the sick people to the camps.

But the Civil Surgeon of Rajshahi said that fresh supplies of necessary medicine have been sent to the areas.

One bill passed

From Page 1 Col. 8 were enjoying enhanced benefits from 1982 and 1987. The present bill validates an ordinance promulgated on January 31 this year, he added.

BNP From Page 1 Col. 8

are two clearly visible currents within the party leadership. One favours the continuation of the present presidential form of government by sharing some powers of the president with the Prime Minister and the Parliament while the other

favours a reversion to a parlia-

mentary form. The opposition parties in Parliament except the Jatiya Party have been openly advocating a change to the parliamentary form. The BNP's ally in Parliament the Jamaat-e-Islami is also learnt to have made it clear that it would support the demand for a parliamentary form of govern-

Meanwhile, as many as 14 notices have been submitted by opposition members for introduction of constitutional amendment bills in the current session of Parliament. They include one by the deputy leader of the opposition Abdus Samad Azad, and four by the lone Workers Party member Rashed Khan Menon.

A Parliament Secretariat source told The Daily Star that only the draft of bill submitted by Abdus Samad Azad is a comprehensive one; the remaining ones deal with a specific article or clause each.

The Awami League's draft calls for repeal of all but the first three constitutional amendments - a marked departure from the AL's previous stand. The deviation is obviously designed to attract others who do not support a return to the pre-August 1975 situation.

Editor : S. M. Ali

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Maintain law and order

From Page 1 Col. 7

Begum Zia asked for distributing the duties of police personnel on 'Mohalla' basis to effectively maintain law and order in society.

She said the respective police personnel would be accountable for the deterioration of law and order of his 'Mohalla'. She said stern mea sures would be taken against those who would not be able to give any specific reasons for

Begum Zia asked the police to guard against those quarters who wanted to tarnish the image of the government as well as the nation by creating anarchy and terrorism. She reminded the police personnel that they were also the sons of this soil and it was their duty to foil any evil design against the interest of the nation.

Begum Zia said her government was aware of the problems of the country's police force. She said the present government would give attention to solve their prob-

Dhaka concerned

From Page 1 Col. 5

In the meeting, the Bangladesh side drew the attention of the Indian High Commissioner to the recent incidents of firing by BSF personnel, resulting in the loss of valuable lives, injury to others and the situation resulting there from. The Bangladesh spokesman also said that the acts of BSF were in disregard to the peaceful and established means of settling border incidents as laid down in the joint border guidelines of 1975.

He also expressed the government's hope that adequate and speedy action would be taken by the concerned Indian authorities to ensure that such incidents do not occur in fu-

For his part, the Indian High Commissioner outlined his government's own version of the incidents, which was at variance with the position of Bangladesh in the matter. In response, the Foreign Office spokesman said, while such border incidents were best resolved through the established machinery, the opening of fire and the resultant casualties singled these events out.

He also expressed the hope that he matter would be dealt with keeping in view the need to maintain friendship and amity between the neighbour-

itime boundaries. ing countries.

Farakka barrage from the Ganges since December, 1988 when the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on water distribution expired, resulting in serious water problem in Bangladesh in dry sea-

iems to make the police force an effective machinery in the society.

Begum Zia said police would have to cooperate in consolidating the democratic process

in the country. Referring to the deteriorating law and order Begum Zia said "we want to see it stopped." She asked the police to arrest each and every person responsible for creating anarchic situation.

Begum Zia pointed out that possession of illegal arms by hooligans was disturbing the peace of the society. The police who is mainly responsible for maintaining peace in the society had to p in extra efforts to recover these arms, she said.

The Prime Minister said that road accidents had increased because of the plying of faulty vehicles. She said police had to check the plying of unfit vehicles at any cost. otherwise, they would be made

Begum Zia said a vested quarter was trying to destroy the country's economy by smuggling. She said, smuggling is eating into the vitals of our economy and it has to be resisted at any cost. Police had a great responsibility to check this unholy practice, she added.

Water talks

From Page 1 Col. 5 day official-level meeting on one of the crucial bilateral is-

Secretary for Irrigation. Water Development and Flood Control MA Malik will head a 6-member home side.

Today's parley, the sources said, would be in continuity of the last Secretary-level meeting between the two neighbouring countries, held in New Delhi late October last year.

Bangladesh has been insisting on making a permanent arrangement for equitable sharing of waters of the common rivers including the international river Ganges since setting up the Joint River Commission (JRC).

Water sharing is one of the major issues standing on way to good relations between the two neighbours. Other issues include transfer of Tinbigha corridor, determination of ownership of South Talpatty Island, an integral part of Bangladesh, solution of the Chakma refugee problems and demarcation of land and mar-

India has unilaterally been withdrawing water at the Hartal in Rangpur, rally in Jessore

JP supporters attack train, shops

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Apr 22: A dawn to dusk hartal called by the Jatiya Sramik Party was observed on Monday in Rangpur in demand for release of ousted president Ershad.

All shops, industries and commercial banks, remained closed and all types of vehicals went off the streets during hartal. The attendance in offices was thin.

UNB adds: At least ten people, including a train driver, were injured when Jatiya Party picketers attacked a passenger train during hartal hours, witnesses said .

They said the stone-throwing picketers had attacked a Lalmontrhat-bound local train at the Lalbagh crossing at about 10 AM.

The demonstrators damaged the engine room and window glasses of the train. but police rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control.

Shahabuddin

shocked

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Monday expressed his deep

sorrow at the unfortunate bus

accident near Dhamrai in

which many people have been

killed and injured, reports

President prayed for the peace

of the departed souls and ex

tended his sympathy to the

members of the bereaved fami-

gave directives to the con-

cerned authorities to take

prompt and effective measures

for the treatment of the in-

jured persons admitted to the

Khaleda

Begum Khaleda Zia expressed

deep sorrow at the tragic

death of bus passengers in a

road mishap near Manikganj

killed and more than one hun-

dred injured when a heavily

overloaded Dhaka-bound bus

from Aricha plunged into a dry

canal at Shuchipara in Dhamrai

upazila, about 18 kilometres

expressed sympathy to the

members of the bereaved fami-

lies and prayed for the salva-

cerned officials to ensure

proper treatment of the in-

Police jeep falls

into ditch: Seven

injured

licemen coming from Sutipara,

the scene of today's tragic bus

accident which claimed 51

lives, were seriously injured

when their jeep skidded off

the road and fell into a road-

cured at about 5 PM near

Dhamrai upazila headquarters

this afternoon when the police

team was returning to Savar

after visiting the scene of the

Savar circle Jahangir Hossain

and Officer in Charge of Savar

PS Ataur Rahman. The other

nearby Ganashasthya Hospital

in unconscious state but later

jeep plunged into the 15-feet

deep ditch when the driver

apparently lost control. The

Water requirement

From Page 1 Col. 8

(Shariatpur) in the Jatiya

Sangsad (parliament) on

House that efforts are being

geared up to streamline the

water supply and its distribu-

crore gallons of water a day

against the demand for 24

crore gallons. Chittagong WASA

can meet the total demand of

three crore gallons daily at

By-elections

From Page 1 Col. 8

The dates for scrutiny of

The by-election is necessi-

tated following the vacating of

seats by Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia (four seats -

Bogra-7, Dhaka-5, Dhaka-9 and

Chittagong-8), former

President HM Ershad (four

seats - Rangpur-1, Rangpur-2,

Rangpur-5 and Rangpur-6).

one seat each by Tofael Ahmed

(Madaripur-2).

nomination papers by the

Returning Officer and with-

drawal of candidature are May

19 and May 26 respectively.

Dhaka WASA can supply 12

The minister told the

snifted to hospital in Dhaka.

The injureds include ASP of

They were brought to

Witnesses said the police

Police said the accident oc-

side ditch, reports UNB.

road mishap.

five are constables.

vehicle got twisted.

tion system.

present.

SAVAR, Apr 22: Seven po-

She also directed the con-

tion of the departed souls.

Begum Zia, in a statement,

At least 51 passengers wer

UNB adds: Prime Minister

different hospitals.

Monday morning.

from Manikganj.

Justice Shahabuddin also

In a massage, the Acting

The Acting President.

Railway control room sources said some demonstrators also tried to halt an intercity express train between Rangpur and Kaunia stations.

Police picked up four picketers from the Lalbagh and tal hours, police said.

Shapla square during the har-

In Dhaka the Jatiya Party held a rally yesterday protesting transfer of Ershad to Central Jail and the arrest of party leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury

The meeting at the party's Guishan office was presided over by Moudud Ahmed MP and addressed, among others. by Shah Moazzem Hossain. Syeda Razia Faiz and Amena

Our Jessore correspondent says: Some unruly processionists of Jatiya Party looted and damaged about 50 shops, wounded many persons and further damaged about 20 vehicles including a BAF troop carrier and an ambulance this evening. Earlier a meeting of the Jatiya Party was held at Daratana Square to protest the arrest of former President Ershad and sending him into Dhaka Central Jail. The meeting was addressed, among others, by the Former State Minister Khaledur Rahman

The Midnight Eile

Kabul Scud kills 500

ISLAMABAD, Apr 22: More than 500 people were killed when the Kabul regime launched a Scud missile attack on the resistance-held eastern Afghan city of Asadabad, the official Pakistan television said today. The report showed footage of the destruction and two big craters apparently caused by the Scuds in the attack Saturday, and said at least 250 people were hospitalised in areas adjacent to the Afghan province of Kunar, reports AFP.

Hun Sen for treatment in Tokyo

TOKYO, Apr 22: Cambodian Premier Hun Sen entered e Tokyo hospital Monday for treatment, the Foreign Ministry said. A ministry official declined to discuss details of his illness or identify the hospital. He said the Japanese government has accepted the 38-year-old Hun Sen's visit to Japan from "a humanitarian point of view", reports AP.

Monitoring on Iraqi chemicals

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 22 : Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Monday proposed a Special Commission to oversee destruction of Iraq's chemical, biological and other weapons, as mandated by the Gulf War ceasefire resolution. In a report to the Security Council, Perez de Cuellar gave no detaffs of how the destruction and monitoring of Iraq's weapons systems would be carried out, reports AP.

Foreigners asked to quit Kashmir

JAMMU (India). Apr 22: Indian intelligence agencies have asked foreigners to leave Kashmir, citing security fears in the strife-torn northern state, where Muslim militants kidnapped two Swedish nationals last month. The federal agencies asked the foreigners, mostly tourists, to leave following Indian forces' failure to trace the two Swedish engineers, who were abducted in the valley by armed militants March 31, official said, reports AFP.

Informant of Ershad's arms case gained over

From Page 1 Col. 4 the Ballistics of Police Expert Saleh Mohammad was again cross-examined by the Defence

The caretaker of the Toshakhana at Bangabhaban also produced the pistol which was claimed by the Defence Lawyer on Sunday to be one of those recovered from the resi-

It was almost certain that the pistol listed in the register of the Toshakhana was not the same pistol recovered from the Sena Bhavan.

dence of Ershad.

However the Defence Lawyer said that he would examine the matter later.

Witness Abdul Hamid Chowdhury of the Home Ministry in his statement before the Tribunal said that as the Inventory Committee had mentioned eight unlicenced weapons in its report, he instructed the Deputy Police Commissioner (North) to lodge the case under the existing

The instruction was given in consultation with the Home Secretary, he added.

The Defence Lawyer on his part emphasised that the whole prosecution was misconceived, malafide and taken in undue haste without giving the accused a due opportunity to defend himself.

It was done to condemn him unheard, the Defence Lawyer added.

The witnesses however denied that the assertion of the Defence Lawyer was based on As on the previous day

Ershad was taken to the Tribunal early in the morning for security reasons. He looked grim, gloomy and

depressed as he sat in the Till yesterday a total of 14 witnesses were produced be-

fore the Tribunal, which was adjourned yesterday till 10 am tomorrow (Wednesday). Following are the excerpts from the cross-examination of

the Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry Abdul Hamid Chowdhury. Defence lawyer (Sirajul

Haque) : Did you ask any member of the Inventory Committee to find out whether any of the recovered items was a Abdul Hamid Chowdhury

(AHC): No. DL: Did you see the FIR?

AHC: Yes, I saw the FIR.

DL: Did you see that it was mentioned in the FIR that Mustafizur Rahman presented four out of eight unlicensed arms before the Inventory Committee ? AHC: I read the report but I

can't remember it. DL: The case was so long that he could not remember.

Then pointing to Attorney General he said 'as you have interfered he gave that answer." Attorney General; What interference? DL: You prompt the wit-

nesses as to what they should say and what they should not. (Then he questioned the witness) Before directing the lodging of the FIR did you consult the Military Secretary or anybody about the case? AHC : No.

DL: Did you consult Brigadier Ilyas? AHC: No I did not.

DL: You acted solely on the report ?

AHC: Yes. DL: Was there any recommendation from the Inventory Committee for lodging the case? AHC : There was no rec-

ommendation for starting a case from the Inventory (Bhola-2) and Abdur Razzak Committee.

DL: Did you give any direc-

tive to anyone to consult Ershad about the arms? AHC: No.

DL: You have condemned this man unheard without giving him (Ershad) an opportunity to defend himself. AHC: This is not a fact. I

asked to start the case to prove whether those arms belonged to him. DL: Did he (Ershad write any letter to allow his wife to

ventory? AHC: Yes. Judge: Did ne write? AHC: Yes. Probably on the 17th and the 23rd of

remain present during the in-

December, 1990. DL: He has admitted that the accused wrote letters. DL: Have you seen the

chargesheet which was produced after investigation by the CID? AHC: Yes. DL: Do you know that the

FIR had mentioned that four weapons were submitted by Mustafizur Rahman in a box? AHC: I saw that in the FIR.

DL: Was there any telephone communication between the Home Ministry and the residence where Ershad was detained?

AHC: That is not in my knowledge.

DL: (Showing a copy of circular from the Home Ministry) Have you seen that the circular issued by the Home did not mention that the illegal arms should be deposited to the nearest thang within December 26, 1990 ? (DL mentioned that the circular was issued as a radio message).

AHC: It was not mentioned in the circular.

Judge: You are giving a circular to the whole nation but you do not mention that the illegal arms should be deposited to the nearest thana in the message. AHC: This circular had been addressed to the DC and

the SD and not for public information. The mass media including radio, television and newspapers gave publicity to the effect that the arms should be surrendered to the nearest thana and proper receipt should be obtained for the deposited arms from the thana authorities. The circular was issued on the 15th while the press release for radio broadcast was issued on December 12. The circular was issued to the DC and the SP to instruct them to inform the public about the depositing of illegal arms. The circular in no way for public consumption.

DL: Did you mention in your circular about the arms which were surendered at places other than he thanas?

Judge: (Clarifying the question) Had they not been deposited in the thanas, did you keep any alternative arrangement for surrendering of the illegal arms at any other

AHC : It is clear in the circular that the arms should be surrendered at the nearest DL: (Giving a suggestion): The circular did not mention

anything about the arms which were deported before high officials of the administration. AHC: I have nothing to say beyond the instruction given in

the circular. DL: The chargesheet mentioned that four arms were 'presented' before the Inventory Committee. Did you mark it ?

AHC: No I don't know. DL: The chargesheet mentioned that four arms were 'presented' while in the circular it was mentioned that the arms should be 'deposited. What is the difference between 'present' and 'deposition' ?

Judge: (With anger at the

the arms were not deposited. DL: (Intercepting Judge) I will not accept the recording

of this answer. the answer.

a relationship between 'deposit' and 'thana'.

made with the thana.

DL: (Giving another suggesin undue haste.

AHC: It is not a fact. After the cross-examination of Abdul Hamid Chowdhury the ballastics expert Saleh Mohammad was presented again for cross-examination. DL: Are the 303 and 3006

arms the same? Saleh Mohammad: No.

DL: How man, bullets have you received for chamination? SM: 375 bullets.

DL: You have found some bullets of the weapons which were given to a army museum. Do you know that ?

know that Saleh Mohammad then examined the pistol which was brought from the Toshakhana

Witness Abdul Malek was then produced before the Tribunal. Abdul Malek is now

Senior Assistant Secretary.

On December 14 he (informant) stayed there for 45 minutes, on December 17 he was there for 45 minutes, on December 19 he was there for 25 minutes, on December 20 for 10 minutes, on December 21 for 25 minutes and on December 23 for 30

On all days the informant met Ershad he went there in police uniform.

prosecution Abdul Malek was Lawyer.

Abdul Malek (AM): Yes I

know him. DL : Is he alive ? Is he in Dhaka? He could come to the

AM : He is alive. DL: Do you know why

was sent there? AM: I don't know anything. DL: Would he go there on

AM : We have no record that he was sent there by

his own or did someone send

someone. DL : Can you say that he has come to the Tribunal? Attorney General: Why will

he say that. DL: He may come and go so what happens to the case.

The statement is irrelevant.

The National Security Intelligence has suggested shifting the Special Tribunal from House No 9 of Road No 50 of Gulshan, Dhaka to the visitors' room adjacent to the Central

yet been decided.

AM : I don't know.

After the cross-examination

of Abdul Malek the Prosecution

produced Shamsher Alam.

Without examining the witness

the Attorney General left him

for cross-examination. But the

Defence Lawyer Serajul Haque

said he would not cross-exam-

ine him on the day. Then the

Judge himself asked some

The Attorney General quo-

Then Strajul Haque said

The Judge then passed a

ted a law to declare the

witness as gained over by the

that he would have to learn the

remark on the Defence Lawyer

Strajul Haque. The Judge said,"

You are a tough lawyer and also

sher Alam) : What do you do

the Commanding Officer of the

Armed Police Battalion at Mo-

after summons from the court?

instructed me to come here.

After getting the written in-

SA: I lodged the FIR.

halchari in the CHTs.

struction I have come.

or as a truthful man?

FIR out of enmity?

FIR on your own?

SA : No.

tivated?

Ministry.

the F. I. R?

SA: Yes.

SA: Yes.

Gulshan house?

truth to the Court?

about the case?

Judge (questioning Sham-

Shamser Alam: I am now

Judge: Have you come here

SA: The Attorney General

Judge: What do you know

Judge: How are you known

SA: I am known as a truth-

Judge: Was the FIR true?

Judge: Did you lodge the

Judge: Was the FIR ill mo-

Judge: Did you lodge the

SA: I lodged the FIR at the

Judge: Was the instruction

Judge: You have only lodged

Judge: Have you told the

After the questions by the

DL: Why did you go to the

SA: I was the overall in-

charge of the house. When I

went there the house had not

been declared a sub-jail. I was

entrusted with the whole re-

sponsibility of the house where

former President Ershad was

detained. So I went there to

see him and supervise security.

Ministry source the Gulshan

house was declared a sub-jail

on the 31st of December but

the general security of Ershad

and the house was entrusted to

When asked the Attorney

the Special Branch of police.

General Aminul Haque said,

that he declared the witness as

'gained over' by the Defence to

avoid risk. He said that the

witness had no official duty at

the Gulshan sub-jail and that

the security of the house was

entrusted to the Special

Branch and the witness and no

Tribunal may be shifted

According to the Home

Judge, Defence Counsel Strajul

Haque questioned Shamsher

instruction of the Home

from the Home Ministry to

lodge the F. I. R a nominated

SA: I don't think so.

in the police circle? As a liar

ful person in the police circle.

SA: Yes it was true.

Defence.

law again.

a tough man".

now?

questions to Shamsher Alam.

witness) The answer is simple with the permission of the Home Ministry?

Judge: I am not recording AHC: The arms should be deposited to the thana and as such the 'deposit' should be made with the thana. There is

DL: (Giving a suggestion) There is no difference between 'present' and 'deposit' AHC: The deposit should be

tion) This prosecution is misconceived, malafide, and taken

SM: I am not supposed to

at the instruction of the Judge. After the cross-examination of Saleh Mohammed the judge recessed the tribunal for an hour. The court resumed at 2

working in the political section of the Home Ministry as

He said that the informant of the case Shamshur Alam who was the Deputy Police Commissioner (North) of DMP went to see Ershad six times on six days at the Gulshan residence from December 14 to December 23, 1990.

minutes.

civil dress except on December 23 when he ware After examination by the

cross-examined by the Defence DL: Do you know Shamsher

court if he would stay in Dhaka.

Shamsher Alam went there? What he discussed or why he

him there?

AM : I don't know that. DL: There is no relevance of your witness to the case

the court. DL: Had anyone met Ershad

business going there.

AM: That will be judged by However the matter has not