

another Prime Minister but the premier's office-turned-state-guest-house-turned-premier's office building perhaps, now, does double function of hosting state guests and housing the Prime Ministers office. So, at least, say the inscriptions on the main gate. - Star photo

'Old Ganobhaban' again made PM's office

Star Report

The state guest house, Sugandha which is popularly known as 'Old Ganobhaban' has been turned into Prime Minister's office. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has already started attending office here in the afternoon for the last few days. She normally attends her office at the Bangladesh Secretariat.

This building has a significant past. It was set up in 1910 by the British rulers dur-

Diarrhoea

ing the period of partition of Bengal. Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah stayed here during his visit to erstwhile East Pakistan as the Governor General of the country in 1948.

The building was turned into President's house later and it remained so during the erstwhile Pakistan. After liberation it became

office of the Prime Minister and was known as Ganobhaban.

From Page 1 Col. 5

T was too early for the

Eid-ul-Azha. A Whip

the path of confrontation re-

Mahbubul Alam Tara from Feni

was allowed on Wednesday to

read the call attention notice

which was of 'great public

importance.' The issue was

blackmarketing of Railway

tickets during the Eid-ul-Fitr.

The parliament secretariat

included it in the agenda on

Wednesday, eight days after

the Eid was celebration.

Perhaps not too late! The

mover of the notice was no

less embarrassed. Mr Alam

tried to avoid reading it as it

had lost the relevance. But un-

daunted Railway Minister took

the floor to reply and said

blackmarketing was intro-

duced by autocrat Ershad and

HAMSUL Huq of Awami

Thousands stranded

at Aricha

24: About 1,100 loaded trucks

and buses with several thou-

sand passengers have been

stranded in Aricha-Daulatdia

and Aricha-Nagarbari routes

since Tuesday night for ferry

Bush welcomes

shortage. re ports UNB.

ARICHA (Manikganj), Apr

League, member from

his ministers.

mains to be seen.

Queen Elizabeth II stayed here twice during her visit in 1961 and 1983.

After the changeover of government in 1975 the house was made the official residence of the vice-president. During the rule of deposed president HM Ershad the house was brought under the management of the Foreign Ministry and made a state guest house and was named Sugandha.

Seen From the Gallery

From Page 1 Col. 2 Jamalpur

The control room in the city gave the death figure 560 on Wcdnesday against Tuesday's 511, but according to unofficial sources, the figure had already crossed 600.

The number of diarrhoea patients, given by the control room, was 35.290 but reports received from the affected areas said the figure had already exceeded 40,000.

According to official sources, 1559 medical teams including some army teams are working in the affected areas.

Lack of rains and scarcity of pure drinking water are the main causes of the disease, the source said. Most of the affeeted areas had little rains during the last two months.

Water talks

From Page 1 Col. 7 son: But the Indian side remained non-committal on the issue as before.

As regards sharing of the Teesta flows, it was agreed at the meeting that Bangladesh would formulate a draft operational plan for consideration in the next meeting.

The committee, which will meet again in New Delhi in July this year, has decided to intensify efforts to accomplish its assignment.

MA Maltk, Secretary. Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control led Bangladesh side at the meeting while the Indian delegation was led by Dr MA Chitale, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources.

Schwarzkopf WASHINGTON, Apr 24: Prestdent George Bush gave General Norman Schwarzkopf a hearty welcome back to the United States on Tuesday saying his leadership during the Gulf war gave a big boost to US

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Myme-nsingh acted as an entertainer in the House on Wednesday too. His loud voice aroused interest among the members who encouraged him by banging tables to speak without microphone

Amazingly Huq too did not ask for the mike even. Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali enjoyed the shouting and asked Huq to speak from Mymensingh next time. "I shall hear you if you speak from your constituency." The AL member took the seat with great satisfaction.

Lawyers

From Page 1 Col. 7

and vocal. The election results are indicative of the electorate's rejection of Awami League's standpoint.

They recalled that the concept of the presidential system was brought into the Constitution by Awami League led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and nurtured by BNP and its leader President Ziaur Rahman. It has the wisdom of the two great leaders. The need is not the 'organic change', but further democratisation of the present system, they feel. It is not the system but public awareness that works as deterrent to autocracy. They pointed out that the parliamentary form would bring

instable governments which "we cannot afford." They further contended that Awami League's proposed amendments including that of clause (1A) of Article 142 would require referendum, and the issue might be brought to the Supreme Court to test the 'doctrine' of basic structures. The Supreme Court in the 8th Amendment Case had laid down that parliament has no amending power to change 'the basic structures' of the

you make to prove that those were not gift items?

him (Ershad) he was detained

GM: Yes. But his hands and

DL: Is it unusual to keep

DL: Do you know that there

DL: Did you not seize any-

Attorney General : He ear-

DL: You have handed over a

document to the Court. Did you

mention there that the Sena

Bhavan was not the annex of

GM: There is no mention.

glassroom as a drawing room.

be used as the drawing room.

December 22, 1990?

GM: I can't remember.

GM: This is not true.

DL: The recovery of the

DL: Did you examine those

President?

persons who went abroad with

GM: I asked about the arms

to an SP. Chief or Protocol of

the Bangabhavan and the for-

DL: Did you ask Brigadier

DL: You did not mention

GM: There is no column for

DL: We have got an

Police Officer Shamsher

Alam produced as court wit-

ness was cross examined by

both the Defence Lawyer

Strajul Haque and the Attor-

ney General Aminul Haque.

The Defence Lawyer first

you mention the date of the

incident in the FIR? Say it

ere is a date mentioned in the

FIR, the 24 the of December

DL: When were the unli-

SA: On December 24,

DL: You mentioned the date

SA: There is no mention in

DL: Were no arms recov-

SA: It is not mentioned in

DL: Did you prepare the FIR

DL: What happened on

SA: Mustafizur Rahman

Four arms were recovered

DL: Did you send some of

S A : I can't remember.

Judge: What is the meaning

SA: With us means with

DL: You sent the licences

arms to the thana and kept all

DL: Where are the arms?

officer of the OC of the

DL: Are you the superior

SA : The OC of the Can-

DL: You went to the Gul-

SA: I went there many

DL: Why did you go there?

SA: I was the overall in-

charge. The Gulshan house was

not declared a sub-jail till

then. I had to go there to do

my duty. I had a written order

DL: What was in the written

SA: I was the overall in-

DL: Who gave that order?

DL: So we can assume that

SA: DMP Commissioner.

tonment thana is my sub-

shan house where Ershad was

detained six to seven times?

the recovered arms to the

thana or did you keep all the

Probably all the arms had been

the Inventory Committee.

unlicensed arms with you?

SA: I can't say.

Cantonment thana?

ordinate staff.

to that effect.

charge of the house.

order ?

times.

SA: I can't remember.

December 24 ? Were you pre-

presented a box. I was present

Shamsher Alam (SA)): Th-

after seeing the documents.

censed arms recovered?

covered on December 22.

my own hand writing.

ered on December 22 ?

all by yourself?

SA: Yes.

sent there?

from the box.

arms with you?

kept with us.

of 'with us'?

December 22.

Defence Lawyer (DL): Did

the place of occurrence in your

eign ministry.

GM : No.

chargesheet?

place of occurrence.

omelette without an egg.

questioned the witness.

Ilvas?

arms can be exempted under

DL: You described the

GM: The Glassroom used to

lier said that he seized every-

thing from the Inventory

seizure?

documents during detention?

is a law under the Arms Act for

at House No 10 of Gulshan?

legs were not tied up.

GM: I don't know.

thing from my client?

investigating Officer.

the Bangabhavan.

Bhavan?

search and

GM : No.

Committee.

Magistrate.

statement of the prosecution. GM : If those were gift Before the last witness was produced Judge Mohammad items why were they not deposited in the Toshakhana. Habibullah snubbed Police Officer Shamsher Alam for vis-

iting the Gulshan Sub-jail without uniform. gifts? GM: I also contacted the The Attorney General Foreign Ministry to know about Aminul Haque also lashed out at the Police Officer during the DL: When you interrogated cross-examination for his un-

It was reported in the Tribunal on Monday that Shamsher met Ershad for 180 minutes spreading over six days, mostly at night and without any uniform. However he said that he went there to perform his duty.

becoming behaviour.

From Page 1 Col. 4

He was also declared as gained over by the defence. CID Investigation Officer Golam Mostafa was the last Prosecution witness in the

He said that as a president Ershad was not exempted by the Arms Acts from possessing the arms which were found from his residence without any licence.

He said that the Sena Bhaban was not declared as the annexe of the Toshakhana of Banga Bhaban by the govern-

He said that he had correspondence with different relevant departments of the government to ascertain whether the recovered arms were gift

But he said that he did not get any evidence to that effect. Golam Mostafa said that he asked the Chief of Protocol and enquired about the items, whether those were gifts, but the Chief of Protocol could not say anything about the arms.

He said that the Assistant Military Secretary was also asked about the items and that he had correspondence with the Foreign Ministry to ascertain the source of the arms.

He said that he framed the chargesheet under Section 26 of the Special Powers Act.

The Investigating Officer cross-examined by the Defence. Defence Lawyer Yousuf Haider Humayun also cross-examined the witness. Sirajul Haque started the

question: Defence Layer: Are you an arms expert?

Golam Mostafa (GM): No. Judge: As he is not an arms expert he will conclude quickly but it would take more time if he would take more

(After recess) DL: You are saying that .455 is the highest and .220 is the lowest bore.

DL: In between .455 and 220 all items are intermediary items? GM : Yes.

DL: As President he could also keep higher powered

GM: Yes he could keep but not without license. DL: Are you saying that

those are prohibited? GM: I am saying that he is not exempted by the notification of the Arms Act.

DL: What kind of pistol can a commonman possess? GM: With license any pistol

can be possessed by the com-

monman except those which are prohibited by law. DL: The names of the persons who can keep unlicensed arms are also mentioned in the

exemption list as (all except the following). (he showed the

GM: Yes, all except the following persons.

DL: which are exempted? GM: .455 or any intermediary pistols.

DL: .455 is a fraction and it can't be a base for determining intermediary bore? GM : All the bores between

the highest and the lowest are intermediary. Attorney General (to

Defence Lawyer jokingly): It was done when your government was in power. Sheikh Shaheb did it hurriedly in 1973 to recover unauthorised arms.

DL: (giving a suggestion) The definition of intermediary bore is absurd, meaningless and has no relevance to the exemption.

GM: It is not a fact. DL: Column two of the notification deals with the arms which are exempted from license. My client has

been exempted by the law. GM: It is not a fact. DL: He can keep .455 and

GM : It is not fact. DL: What kind of a pistol can the President keep without licence?

GM: It is mentioned in the notification. DL: He can keep all the pistols from 9 mm to .22 bore.

GM: It is not a fact. DL: No other pistol in the world is manufactured except those of .455 to .220 calibre

bores. GM: It is not a fact. DL: When you went to meet Ershad, he said that some of the arms were gifts?

GM: I have already said it. DL: Was it mentioned in the chargesheet? GM: It was proved that

those were not gift items. you would go there to do your DL: What investigation did

duty and not for any other

purpose ? SA: That is so. There was another officer to help me in performing my duty. I would DL: Are you interpreting remain worried if I could not law to prove that those were go there. More than 300 policemen had been deployed

there for security reasons. DL : Did you go there after the recovery of the pistols and guns?

SA: Yes, I saw the police and the Security Branch (SB) men posted there conversing with each other.

DL: Dtd you go there after the recovery of arms? SA: Yes, for security pur-

DL: Dtd you not talk about the recovery of arms? SA : No.

DL: The arms were recovered December 24, but you lodged the FIR on January 5. What did you do during the 11

SA: We worked as a team DL: You did not obtain any under the leadership of the written instruction from the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate. The Chairman of the commit-GM : I seized the items as tee contacted the authorities for disposing of the arms from

time to time. DL: You did not lodge the FIR on your own?

SA : No Yes.... No DL: You had no intention to lodge the FIR.

SA: I had the intention. DL: Did you lodge the FIR on your own? SA: I can't lodge an FIR on

DL: Were some arms recovmy own initiative. ered from the showroom of DL: Did you recommend for the living room of the Sena an FIR?

Rahman.

SA: I did not, and there GM: I can't remember that. was no scope for a recommen-DL: Were any arms recovdation. ered from the Sena Bhavan on

DL: As a superior officer to the OC of the Cantonment thana you could accept the case on your own?

SA: I had all the power to accept the case. DL: You mentioned the

number to bullets was 174 in a place in your FIR. But here is no mention of 375 bullets. SA: The bullets were with the arms brought by Mustafizur

DL: Did the Committee members take any initiative to find out from where the bullets came?

SA: Our duty was to make a list of the recovered goods. DL: You did not try to find out the source of bullets, or from where the President got the bullets. What is the use to

You were ready to file the case anyway. You are a dutiful officer. But

finding out the source?

do you do what I say? SA : No. DL: Would you do what I

SA: No, I am a government officer. I believe in performing my duty.

Judge : He has been declared hostile by the Prosecution. DL: Not hostile. Gained

DL: Did we gain you over? SA: No. The question does

not arise. DL: Is it true that we have gained you over as is claimed

by the prosecution. SA: There is not even a fraction of truth that I have been gained over.

the FIR that the arms were re-Judge: So he is not gained DL: Did you prepare the

DL: He is a truthful wit-SA: I prepared the FIR in

Then the Attorney General started cross-examination of the witness.

Attorney General Aminul Haque (AG): When was Ershad detained?

Shamsher Alam (SA): On December 12, 1990. AG: Do you know that the SB maintains a diary of the persons who meet Ershad?

SA: Yes. I know. AG: Do you know that during the time of conversations the SB personnel remain present there?

SA: Yes. I know. AG: You talked to Ershad? SA: I did not go there to see Ershad.

AG : Why did you go to Ershad? SA: You talked to Ershad for 45 minutes on the 17th of

December ? SA: I don't know that I talked to him for 45 minutes. AG . You were there from

7.50 to 8.35 pm on that day. SA: I went there for performing my duty. I can't remember. He took me to his bathroom to show me a defect

in the sanitation system. Judge: How long did you stay with Ershad? SA: I can't remember.

Judge: You are denying that you went to Ershad to meet him personally? SA: I deny I went to meet

him for personal reasons. Attorney General then described the times Shamsher Alam met Ershad.

SA: The ex-President said that there was trouble in the bathroom, I went to see what the problem was with him.

AG: Did you maintain any diary on your meeting with Ershad? Did you make any reports to anyone about your meeting with Ershad? SA: Listen.

The Attorney General then became angry and lashed out at Shamsher Alam warning him

Amnesty for Ershad sought The Midnight File

Mongolia won't invite Dalai Lama

ULAN BATOR (Mongolia). Apr 24: Monogolia, bowing to pressure from China, has decided not to invite the Dalai Lama to preside over a major Buddhist festival, a government spokesman said Wednesday. We can't make such brave decisions as President George Bush," said T Chimeddori, referring to the American President's meeting with the Dalai Lama, the spiritual and former temporal leader to Tibet. China had asked Bush not to receive him because the Dalai Lama has criticised Chinese rule of Tibet and called for independence, or autonomy, for the remote Himalayan region,

50 killed in Nigerian riots

LAGOS, Apr 24: Riots by Muslims in Nigeria's northeastern Bauchi state left several people dead on Tuesday, the official NAN news agency reported late Tuesday. The independent Guardian newspaper reported Wednesday that "unconfirmed casualty reports last night suggested more than 50 dead, 12 churches burnt and 50 cars smashed". reports AFP.

Gorbachev wins CP vote

MOSCOW Apr 24: Mikhail S. Gorbachev scored an early victory at a key Communist Party meeting Wednesday when a majority voted not to discuss whether he should give up his post as party chief, a news agency said. Critics also fatled in a bid to make Gorbachev account for his management of the party at the closed meeting of the 410- member Central Committee, the independent Interfax agency reported, without attribution, reports AP.

Special Powers Act

From Page 1 Col. 5 House that after the change of government on December 6 last year, prisoners in various jails of the country challenged the legality of their detention orders and conviction and made illegal attempts to re-

Begum Zia said that several rounds of talks were held between the government and the prisoners on the demands placed by the prisoners.

Some attempts were made to bring the situation under prisoners became more unruly guards and officials. Some of taken hostage.

that as a result of their attitude, complications cropped up in the jail administration.

The prisoners took over the internal administration of some jatls and ran the administration according to their

reception to Soviet ambassador From Our Staff

CHITTAGONG, Apr 24: Chittagong Press Club on Wed nesday accorded a reception to the outgoing Soviet ambass ador Vitali Smirnov.

The ambassador in his speech hoped that the friendly relations between the two countries would grow further during the tenure of the new Soviet ambassador.

Deputy Police Commissioner. Say, did you make any report? SA: I did not make any report. There was no necessity of

AG : Give a direct answer.

AG: Why did you go there in

than during office timings we use civil dress. I went there in civil dress out of office timings but during office timings I wore uniform.

duty without uniform?

SA: It is in practice.

perform my official duty. Judge: You don't know that one cannot be on official duty without uniform.

police department? SA: 18 years.

an officer has to be in his official uniform during his duty? SA: We wear uniform dur-

time and on some special occasions we wear civil dress. Judge: You picked your re-

Judge: You went there many times. But the SB reported that you went there six times. Are you saying that during your relaxation period you

SA: I also went there during office time. Judge: (angrily) I must be

AG : You went there for relaxation (Aram/Ayesh).

the jatls deteriorated rapidly and at one stage, the prisoners attempted to escape by breaking open the main gates and scaling the prison walls. in the interests of a smooth prison administration, Begum,

Zia told the House, legal steps

were taken to bring the pris-

oners engaged in creating a deadlock in the prison administration by resorting to willful indiscipline under control. Medical varsity

From Page 1 Col. 5

our movement will not stop unless we reach proper medicare, education, shelter, food and clothing to all." Assuring the trial and punishment of the killers of Dr

> ernment had resorted to steps in this regard and the trial would take place on the soil of Bangladesh. Presided over by Prof Abdul Bayes Bhuiyan, Acting President Bangladesh Medical Teachers' Association Federation, the conference held at the Institution of Engineers was addressed among others by Health and

Family Welfare Minister

Chaudhury Kamai Ibne Yusuf,

Dr M A Majed, President

Milon, Begum Zia said her gov-

Bangladesh Medical Association and Mrs Selina Akhtar, mother of late Dr. Shamsul Alam Milon. Paying glowing tributes to the supreme sacrifices made by Shaheed Dr Milon, most of the speakers expressed their

resentment over the delay in identifying the killers of Dr

relaxation. Judge: Did you get any report that the security of the house may be at stake? SA: We received information from different sources

that there may be a procession moving towards the house. Judge: Was the force deployed there under the Home Ministry or you?

SA: I deployed the force at the instruction of the DMP Commissioner. Judge: Did you sense any-

thing which may cause a security problem? SA : No. Judge: Who was to assist in

your work? SA : DPC (Riot) North. Judge : Did you file the FIR on the basis of the report of the Inventory Committee?

Judge: You did not mention the time of occurrence in the FIR inspite of knowing fully

SA: Yes.

about it? SA: That is not a fact? AG : You did not sign the in-

ventory list? SA: I was not in Dhaka when the list was submitted. I was sick. I was transferred on December 26. I was admitted to hospital. The doctor advised me to go abroad for treatment.

Attorney General : The Inspector General of Police in a report has said that the unbecoming behaviour of Shamsher Alam may encourage other police officers to become indisciplined.

SA : I don't know. AG: Due to his association with the ex-President he was gained over by the defence and tried to conceal the truth

about the case. SA: This is not a fact. God will judge. Shamsher Alam then made

a plea to the Court. He said that he was not gained over by the Defence but that the Attorney General unnecessarily harassed him. He wanted an exemption from the Court from that allegation. After the cross-examination

of Shamsher Alam the Court Prosecution produced Investigating Officer of the case senior CID Police Officer MG Golam Mostafa. The tribunal was adjourned after the cross-examination of Golam Mostafa tili 10 am Saturday next.

She said that the situation in

alise different demands.

control. But, she said that the and assaulted the prison the guards and officials were The Prime Minister said

whims. Ctg Press Club

Correspondent

to say anything he wanted addressing the Judge. The AG said: Give me an answer to what I am asking. Why do you argue . . . forget that you are a

making a report.

civil dress? SA: When on duty other

Judge: You said that you went there to do your duty. Why did you go there without uniform? Can you be on official

Judge: In order to meet Ershad you went there as an ordinary citizen? SA : No. I went there to

SA: It is in practice. Judge: I will not accept that it is in practice. How long have you been working in the

Judge: Don't you know that ing office time. But during off-

laxation period to do your duty in the Gulshan house? SA: Not at all times.

went there.

harsh with you. Listen. You are being maintained with all facilities including food and clothing to do your duty with uniform and in a disciplined way. You are also being imparted proper training for that. You as an officer should go anywhere in full uniform when on duty.

SA : I did not go there for