### Attorney General tells court

## No political motive behind Ershad case

Attorney General Aminul Huq Wednesday ruled out any political motive behind instituting the case against former President HM Ershad and categorically stated that the corruption case against him was taken up much before the present government came to power, reports BSS.

Refuting observations of the defence that the present case is a "battle of throne" and also a battle between ambition and beauty", the Attorney General asserted that the case was in fact a legacy being carried by the present democratically elected government.

Since the case had begum before the present government took over, it cannot be treated as politically motivated, Iluq

The Attorney General was presenting his final arguments in the corruption case on the fifth and concluding day of the arguments. Earlier, Chief Defence Counsel (CDC) Serajul Haq had put forward his arguments to prove his client's innocence in the charges brought against him.

The former ruler has been charged on two accounts misappropriation of gifts valued over Tk 11 lakh and amassing wealth over Tk 2.21 crore beyond his known source of income.

Taka 1,90,81,565 which was found in cash in Ershad's Senabhaban is the main element in this case. In all, 58 witnesses, including 48 from the prosecution side, testified in the court.

Referring to defence's accusation that legal sanction was not there to prosecute the former president, the Attorney General said law has been changed and no sanction was required. Despite this, sanction was taken, the Attorney General said and added that, therefore, the allegation of mechanical or purposeful application of law by defence was not sustainable.

On defence's objection former president cannot be tried as per law, the Attorney General said this exemption was applicable only when he is in office. He said after the earlier trial of Khandakar

### ALPP expresses doubt about sincerity of ruling party

Awami League Parliamentary Party held a meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban Wednesday afternoon with party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting, lasted an hour, discussed the current session of the Jatiya Sangsad with particular reference to several contemporary national

Party Whip Azizur Rahman told BSS that the meeting expressed concern over the recent border incursion by the Myanmar security forces also the situation prevailing in the Chittagong Hill Districts.

The ALPP also discussed the issue of Indemnity Repeal Bill and expressed its "doubt" about what it termed the "sincerity" of the ruling party in placing the bill in the House.

## Three muggers with Tk 1.58 lakh

## held

By Staff Correspondent A group of armed muggers

looted about Taka 1,58,000 from the employees of a pharmaceutical company, leaving them injured in front of the Ramna branch of Agrani Bank at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city on Wednesday morning.

When four employees of Fisons Bangladesh Limited ASM Arif, Atiquzzaman, Yakub Hosein and Rahmatullah - got down from a car in front of the bank to deposit the company's money at about 10 .45 am the muggers numbering five or six exploded crackers, stabbed the employees and snatched away the money kept in a bag, witnesses said.

The hawkers and passers by on the spot caught three of the muggers while the others escaped with the money by an autorickshaw.

The apprehended muggers Abdul dioscin alias Sclim, Shafiqul Alam and Khalilur Rahman alias Raju were later handed over to the Motifheel police.

Mushtaque Ahmed, and HM Ershad in an arms case, that

tion of trying the accused under the Prevention of Corruption Act of 1947 which was described by them as "antiquated", the Attorney General maintained the Act of 1947 and that of 1957 mentioned by defence are complementary to each other.

ply to defence's allegations of malafide charges against Ershad said malafide becomes "trrelevant when offence is proved by evidence". He said the fact that the accused has amassed wealth beyond his known source of income has been proved by the discovery of huge cash at his residence.

The Attorney General, with the help of documents, dispelled defence's accusations that Mustafizur Rahman, brother-in-law of Ershad was not the accused's representative. He showed that Rahman signed a number of papers as the representative of Ershad.

The Attorney denied that the Inventory Committee had ransacked Senabhaban as alleged by desence and said pricing of goods was not exact, but an appropriate estimate. The value of goods and articles might be a little less or a little higher, he added.

The Attorney General asserted that it had been proved beyond any shadow of doubt that the former president had committed crimes under Section 5(1) C and 5 (1) E of the Prevention of Anti-Corruption law.

Chief Desence Counsel Serajul Haq Wednesday began arguments reiterating that the present court has no jurisdiction to try the former president and renewed his charge that case was instituted with "malafide intention".

"The whole prosecution is malafide," he said adding, "it is a case in which political interest is involve, to see that the rival mects a situation where he cannot come to power."

The CDC said the claim of his client that the money found at Schabhaban did not belong to him, has been testified that it was deposited with Ershad as Jatiya Party chairman to purchase a house for the party. He also mentioned government files containing the correspondence relating to the purchase of the house with the money collected by JP through donations and subscriptions.

Scrajul Iluq further said that before the institution of the case, Jatiya Party leaders on January 5 last year (three days before filing FIR) wrote a letter to the Acting President on money matter.

## South Korea

From Page 1 Col 8

the activities of such unscrupulous traders and urged the people to refrain from going to South Korea with the help of the brokers.

It also urged the people to gather correct information about the workers' employment in South Korea from the Ministry of Labour and Manpower or the Employment and Training Bureau.

The handout said attention of the government has also been drawn to the newspaper reports that South Korca would take Bangladeshi work-

The handout further said the South Korean government had given limited facilities for appointment of foreign workers from November 1, 1991 for a brief period.

But the facilities are limited to the Korean companies, which have branch offices or factories in Bangladesh or in any other countries, it said.

There are about 20 lakh jobless people in South Korea, the handout added.

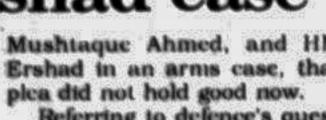
Despite this fact there are some demands for workers in some industrial units in South Korea and this demand would met from Korean born people in China and Soviet Union, according to Seoul government's policy.

The handout said in Korean society the foreigners are treated as unwanted. If any Korean lady marries a foreign national she losses her social dignity and her foreign husband is not entitled to any fa-

cilities. In the same way, if any Korean man marries any foreign lady it becomes very difficult for her to get Korean citizenship.

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Referring to defence's ques-The Attorney General in re-

> Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad addressing a rally of homeless people in the city yesterday. -Star photo

# Try Golam Azam

From Page 1 Col 4 yesterday.

Tofacl Ahmed, Abdur Razzak and Mohiuddin Ahmed of AL. Sheikh Ansar Ali and Ruhul Kuddus of Jamaat and Abdul Latif Miah of ruling BNP among others took part in the discussion.

Expressing surprise over the election of Golam

Azam as the chief of Jamaat Shamsul Haque wanted to know how a foreigner could be elected the chief of a party involved in the political process of Bangladesh while government went for legal action against other foreigners desiring the same.

It was further surprising, he continued, the government was overlooking a foreigner's becoming a party chief who was involved in the genocide during the War of Liberation.

Taking the floor Rashed Khan Menon accused Jamaat of violating the Constitution of the country by electing Golam Azam as its chief.

He said, it was not only a constitutional question, it also involved a crucial political issue too. He maintained Golam Azam was rightly denied his citizenship of the country as he had not only actively opposed the War of Liberation, he had also been campaigning against the country for a long period even after the Independence.

Menon argued Golam Azam, a Pakistani citizen, formed the East Pakistan Restoration Committee' after the independence of Bangladesh and applied all means in pursuing some foreign countries to refrain from Bangladesh as an independent state.

He demanded the government try Golam Azam as a war criminal.

Deputy Leader of the

Opposition Abdus Samad Azad

expressed concern at the ab-

sence of the senior Treasury

Bench members. He main-

bers should be present as they

were individually and collec-

tively accountable to parlia-

noting the absence of the

Foreign Minister and the

Home Minister, said that their

presence was much needed for

Tofael Ahmed (AL), Fazle

Rabbi (JP), Rashed Khan

Menon (WP), Shamsuddoha

(CPB) and Abdur Razzaque

(AL), took part, among others,

Works Minister Rafigul

Islam Miah while contesting

the Deputy Leader of the

Opposition's statement, said

that as an accountable govern-

ment, the cabinet members

have total respect for parlia-

Najmul Huda, Minister for

information, pointed out that

there was no rule regarding

the mandatory presence of the

ministers. While refuting the

demand for the presence of

the Home and the Foreign

Ministers, he added that they

might be otherwise preoccu-

pied with more urgent duties

Ahsanullah

Master bailed out

of the Supreme Court yester-

day granted bail to Ahsanullah

Master, chairman of the now

defunct Gazipur Upazila

Parishad. Ahsanullah, who is

the joint convenor of the

Upazila Chairmen Samity, was

arrested on December 8 al-

legedly on civil disobedience

charges and was under deten-

tion since then. He was one of

the five upazila chairmen who

filed the writ petitions chal-

lenging the annulment of the

Two more pirates

apprehended

KIIULNA, Jan 8 : Bang-

ladesh Navy, in cooperation

with Kalapará police station,

apprehended two notorious

pirates of Alipur under

Patuakhali district yesterday.

upazila system, reports BSS.

A High Court Division bench

ment and its members.

in the debate.

of the state.

the deliberations of the day.

Opposition members, while

tained that the cabinet mem-

countable to the JS.

Charged with emotion Abdul Awal Miah said it was very unfortunate for him as well as for the Speaker that they had to discuss such an is-

Referring to the Article 38 of the Constitution he said, the right for forming association and unions is guaranteed only for the citizens of the country. As Golam Azam is not the citizen of the country, the question of his involvement in the country's political process does not arise at all, the AL MP

Tofael Ahmed, referring to Golam Azam's pioneering role in the formation of al-Badr which had indulged in killing thousands of freedom loving people of Bangladesh, said he must be expelled from the country.

Tofael said amnesty in 1972 was not applicable for those involved in arson, loot and

It was unfortunate that Jamaat did not dare to provide Golam Azam its membership even during the reign of autocratic Ershad, said Tofael adding it has dared to do it under the democratic rule of Khaleda Zia. He was very critical of late

president Ziaur Rahman for his 'attempts' to rehabilitate the anti-Liberation forces in politics. Zia betrayed the spirit of Liberation War, he said. Abdur Razzak said that the

Golam Azam issue involved not only the legal question, it had a genuine emotional aspect too. The government must clarify its stance on the issue.

Razzak said. "He urged the government to try Golam Azam as a war criminal since he is now within our reach."

The Speaker held there was

no rule that the ministers had

to be constantly present in the

louse during proceedings, but

hey must attend the question

hour and other important dis-

At one stage in the debate,

Speaker called on the Law

Minister to introduce the

Supreme Court Judges

(remuneration and privileges)

Parliamentary Affairs Aminul

Hug stood up to introduce the

bill as Mirza Golam Hafiz was

ir.g his annoyance refused to

allow him to introduce the bill.

"I will not give you permission

unless you show me the autho-

risation from the Minister," he

allowed the State Minister to

introduce the bill in

Parliament on behalf of the

minister saying that he would

not allow it in future without

President's address to the

House January 4 was moved by

Mia Md Mansur (BNP). As

Shahidul Islam (BNI') was not

present, when called to sec-

ond the move, Md Ansar Ali

Siddiqui (BNP) later stood up

and seeking permission of the

Ad interim order

allows Moudud to

continue practice

of the Supreme Court yester-

day issued rule upon the

Bangladesh Bar Council to

show cause as to why the

judgement and order dated 31

December, 1991 passed by the

chairman, Bangladesh Bar

Council, would not be set

Justice Mohammad Abdul Jalil

judgement of the Bar Council

passed by the court allowed

the petitioner, Moudud

Ahmed, to continue his prac-

tice as an advocate in the

Supreme Court till disposal of

and Justice Abdul Hasib.

till disposal of the case.

the case.

The bench comprised

The court stayed the

An interim order also

aside, reports BSS.

A High Court Division bench

chair seconded the move.

A motion of thanks on the

prior permission.

However, the Chair finally

The Speaker initially show-

State Minster for Law and

(amendment) bill.

not present.

cussions as per convention.

Absence of ministers

Abdul Latif Miah of BNP said, "What's wrong in forgiving a man even if he had committed a crime in the past, and accommodating him

Mohiuddin Ahmed of AL accused the BNP of patronising Jamaat in exchange of support in forming the government. He demanded trial of Golam Azam.

Sheikh Ansar Ali and Ruhul Kuddus of Jamaat, in a bid to defend their position, said Professor Azam was a citizen of the country by birth.

They, however, argued why the successive governments did not try him in absentia if Golam Azam committed any crime against the people of the country.

The Chief Whip of the ruling party Delwar Hossain, when asked by the Speaker whether the Treasury Bench would say something on this issue, said they preferred to listen to the opposition members. We shall speak on the is sue later, he commented.

The three members who stageed walkout protesting the Speaker's refusal to let them speak during the discussion were Shajahan Siraj of JSD, and independents, Nurul Islam Moni and Major (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed

Sheikh Hasina, Awami League Chief and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, entered the House at 5-15 pm, few minutes before the adjournment motion on Golam Azam was accepted by the Speaker for the debate. She, however, did not take part in the discussion.

The House was adjourned at 6-50 pm yesterday till 3 pm today (Thursday), a Private Members' Day.

### Pry teachers set deadline, plan siege Feb 18

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association has set January 31 as the deadline for the government to accept its 15 -point charter of demands... During a two-hour token

siege of the Secretariat, President of the Association Abul Kalam Azad announced three of its main demands that included payscale for the assistant head teachers, regularisation of salary of some 8,000 teachers and providing second class government employee the status of primary teachers. Abul Kalam Azad said that some 400,000 primary teachers would lay siege to areas from the Bangabhaban to the Central Shaheed Minar February 18 if the demands were not met by the deadline.

Azad told some 5,000 strong teachers rally that he was arrested during the reign of late President Abdus Sattar and housed with 40 mad people. "The ghost of President Sattar is hovering over Begum Khaleda Zia, so she wants to arrest me," he said adding lakhs of primary teachers for whom I sacrificed my life will help me.'

He appreciated late President Ziaur Rahman's not arresting him.

A memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister was handed over at the Ministry of Education after the rally.

Earlier, the primary teachers from 460 upazilas, held a representatives' conference at the auditorium of the Dhaka District Sports Association where they adopted the 15point charter of demands.

## Ctg port resumes activities

CHITTAGONG, Jan 8 : Chittagong port resumed normal activities this afternoon when clearing and forwarding agents and their workers reached an agreement on the five-point demand of the latter, reports

The port remained paralysed for several days when C and F agents employees went on strike to press for their demands including payhike.

#### Govt has failed: Samad Azad

By Staff Correspondent

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and presidium member of Awami League Abdus Samad Azad at a rally on Wednesday said the BNP government must have to resolve all controversial issues with the opposition if it really believed in democracy and wanted to give it an institutional shape.

He was addressing as chief guest a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue organised by the Bangladesh Bastuhara Samity lan association of the slumdwellers) to press home its 10-point demand.

The Awami League leader criticizing the role of the government alleged that it completely failed to lead the country burdened with 50 lakh ed ucated unemployed people.

He blamed the government for not keeping up it commitment to the people and said. instead of doing good to the people, the government was now trying to make the administration partisan to serve its party interest. But it would not be allowed to do so, he added.

Samad Azad criticized the government for not introducing the Indomnity Repeal Bill in Parliament as yet and said only this bill can stop the unholy move by certain quarters to capture power through killings, coups and terrorism.

The rally presided over by Lutfar Rahman, President of the Bastuhara Sansity, was addressed, among others, by Awami League leaders Abdur Razzak, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu. Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury (Maya), Advocate Sahara Khatun, Advocate Strajul Alam, Advocate Quamrul Islam and Bastuhara Samity leaders Quazi Abdul Matin, Nuruddin Khan, Enamul Huq Biswas, Yunus Ali and Abul Quashem.

Abdur Razzak said democracy could not be established in the country unless the heinous Indemnity Ordinance is repealed. He also said that voting against the Indemnity Repeal Bill by the government would be a breach of its commitment to the people and, if it does so, the people would not forgive the government.

#### Flag meeting From Page 1 Col 7

BSS Diplomatic Corres pondent learnt that Myanmar troops had pulled back one to three kilometres from their carlier positions along the

de-escalating the tensions. Myanmar is understood to have amassed three brigades of troops along the border in the

border following the trend of

recent time. UNB reports: The government will apprise the members of parliament the Bangladesh-Myanmar border

situation. "Government will soon make a statement on this", said ruling party Chief Whip Khandokar Delwar Hossain responding to a pressing de-

mand from the opposition.

Expressing concern over the tense situation on the border, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad said hundreds of people from Arakan have been crossing over to Bangladesh. People in Myanmar have been groaning under a most oppressive military rule. The military junta there did not allow madam Suu Kyi to come to power although she won a landslide victory in the election, he said.

Samad said Bangladesh being a small and poor country cannot provide shelter and food to thousands of refugees coming from Arakan every day.

The issue was raised by Salahuddin Yusuf (AL) who observed that tension on the border is mounting. He said Myanmar posed a threat to Bangladesh's sovereignty and pitted the government for "toeing a subservient foreign policy.

Tofael Ahmed pointed to 'he press reports and said Yangoon demonstrated unwillingness in attending the flag meetings. This gave an inpression that Bangladesh has been begging for it. Earlier, the Speaker de-

ferred admission of adjournment motions on Bangladesh-Myanmar border situation "till situation demands for it".

More than a score notices were served to move adjournment motions by members form the opposition benches. While deserring the ad-

mission of the motions, the Speaker said flag meetings were held and the situation seemed to have been brought under control. However, the motions can be allowed if the situation demands, he added.

BSS adds: The district authorities of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban have started work to enlist the names of Ruhingya Muslims. Official sources said the

preparation of the list would be completed by January 15. Meanwhile, a sizeable number of people were said to have died of starvation in Mongdu and other Arakan areas during

the past one week, according to reports by Ruhingya Muslims, who crossed into Bangladesh through different border points.

## The Midnight File

## Birendra to abide by new constitutional monarchy

KATMANDU, Jan 8: King Birendra, reduced to a figurehead after last year's violent pro-democracy movement, says he now abides by the new constitution guaranteeing multiparty democracy in a constitutional monarchy, a Nepalese weekly reported Wednesday. The 46-year-old king said economic factors and political shifts in Nepalese society that coincided with international developments brought about the change, The Independent said, reports AP.

#### **Indonesian Gen regrets** over Timor incident

DILI, Jan 8: An Indonesian general conceded for the first time Wednesday that soldiers had erred in shooting dozens of anti-indonesian demonstrators in East Timor in November. "I sincerely extend my deep regret over the incident and ask forgiveness for the shortcomings and mistakes by members of the armed forces, who intentionally or unintentionally have hurt the people of East Timor," said Maj Gen Sintong Pandjaitan, commander of the military region that includes East Timor, reports AP.

#### India promises \$6 m aid to Russia

NEW DELHI, Jan 8: India will give 150-million rupees (dlrs 5.8 million) worth of aid to Russia to help it face the ongoing economic hardships, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday. The aid will be given to the Commission of Humanitarian and Technical Assistance, set up by the Russian government following the breakup of the Soviet Union, ministry spokesman, Aftab Seth said, reports AP.

#### Three US-based attackers held, claims Cuba

MEXICO CITY, Jan 8: Cuba said Wednesday it had arrested three Miami residents who had infiltrated Cuba to carry out terrorist activities. An Interior Ministry statement reported by state-run Radio Havana said the three men were arrested Dec 29 near Jucaro in the coastal region northeast of Havana, reports AP.

## Rush to deposit licensed arms

By Staff Correspondent

The rush to deposit licensed firearms at the District Commissioner's office in the capital tremendously increased in the past three days.

A total of 1550 licensed firearms were examined by the Magistrates on duty at the DC's office during last three days while only 107 were deposited on the first three days, according to officials.

The Magistrates at the DC's office withheld 28 firearms out of the total number deposited during the last three days as the papers were found unsatisfactory while the rest given back to the owners, a Magistrate on duty told The Daily Star Wednesday.

In the initial announcement, the government ordered licensed firearms holders to deposit all arms between January 2 to 15 at the DC's offices all over the country. It was said that the licences found satisfactorily up-dated, would be returned after the

Following a public outcry over the long delay in the procedure, another announcement was made January 5 saying that the licensed firearms found properly up-dated would be returned immediately after the examination of the papers.

expiry of the last date.

The maximum rush was witnessed Wednesday as 842 licensed firearms were brought into the DC's office of the day. Following the stupendous rush of licensed firearms

A Magistrate at the DC's office said that all of the 135 deposited licensed firearms would be examined and reexamined at the end of the programme and the firearms found unquestionable would be

holders on the day another

room was opened and seven

more Magistrates were en-

gaged in examining licences

and firearms while ten

Magistrates were engaged in a

The Magistrates on duty at

single room to do the job ear-

the DC's office have so far

given back to the owners 291

revolvers, 163 pistols, 209 ri-

fles, 433 double barrel guns

and 433 single barrel guns

after examining the papers and

kept 27 revolvers, 14 pistols

11 rifles, 30 double barrel

guns and 50 single barrel guns

posited at the DC's office 107

were kept without examination

on the first three days follow-

ing the first announcement of

the government while the rest

were deposited as the papers

were unsatisfactory, officials

Out of the firearms de-

at the DC's office, officials said.

lter, officials said.

added. Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka K M Nazmul Alam Siddiqui told "The Daily Star" the presence of the licensed firearms holders is satisfactory and it proves that the people are responding to the govern-

returned to the owners, he

## Bush collapses

From Page 1 Col 7

the flu," he said. "The president's personal physician, Dr Burton Lee, says the president is in good shape and probably will feel okay tomorrow."

In Washington, Vice President Dan Guayle was notified of Bush's illness and went immediately to the White House. Bush's five children were also called.

After the president left the dinner, Mrs Bush made brief remarks, "I can't explain what happened to George, because it never happened before, but I'm beginning to think it's the Ambassador's fault. (Laughter) He and George played the Emperor and the Crown Prince in tennis today, and they were badly beaten. (Laughter.) And we Bushes arn't used to that. So he felt much worse than I thought."

Bush, nearing an end to a 12-day trip to Australia and Asia, attended the state dinner after a long day of tennis, meetings and diplomatic discussions. Japan was his last stop after visiting, Australia, Singapore and Korea.

During contentious trade talks, Bush implored Miyazawa to "iron out" trade differences with the United States, but US officials said Japan was "screaming" about pressure to boost sales of American cars and auto parts in Japan.

White liouse press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said the United States and Japan were arguing heatedly about targets for Japanese imports of US cars and parts. Bush, for his part, said, "We're making

"We're pressing them hard. They're seeling the pinch and they're screaming about it," he said, "We'll find out where we

are tomorrow." Bush, in an interview with the US-based NBC television network, said, "There will be things to point to when we leave here.... Market access. ... And I think we're going to be

successful in that regard. The flu is Bush's first illness

since last summer. The 67-year-old president suffered an irregular heartbeat last May 4 and was flown by helicopter to the Navy facility in Bethesda, Md for tests. He was diagnosed as suffering from Graves disease, the same thyroid ailment that has

affected his wife since 1989. (Earlier story on Page 6)

#### Shadow of fear

From Page 1 Col 7 tor, with government-owned

newspapers publicising only government "propaganda" and seldom reporting what is happening in the provinces, the average resident of Yangon remains totally out of touch with realities, unable to assess. the total situation in the country. Many listen to foreign broadcasts, strongly disapproved by the authorities. Besides, these broadcasts offer little information about the situation in the so-called "rebelheld territories."

If Yangon lives in fear, then Myanmar is a country gone underground, according to one recent arrival here.