Economist of London says

Complacency main danger for Dhaka

By Staff Correspondent

A leading internationallyknown British journal has warned that political "complacency" poses a major danger to the future of Bangladesh.

In this context, the journal, the Economist of London, has also suggested that democracy would be a "lot more secure with a healthy economy."

The despatch by the journal's special correspondent, who recently visited Dhaka, says "that means recognising Bangladesh's problems, one of which is that its labour costs are higher than Sri Lanka's (where GDP per person is 2.5 times higher) and another is that it will soon face competition for investment and for markets from Vietnam."

The report also bluntly declares " it then means accepting the medicine of free markets and economic reform. Unhappily, neither Mrs Zia nor Sheikh Hasina inspires confidence as a doctor".

The over 1000-word despatch headlined "Begum Zia's Burden" carried on the April 4-10 issue of the journal as the lead piece of its Asia section deals exhaustively with various aspects of the issues and problems facing Bangladesh ranging from restoration of democracy to the role of the private sector in an economy which is "kept floating only by injection of foreign aid."

In interviews with the political leaders the correspondent describes the manner of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia as "impressive" but makes the point that she spends "hardly any time in parliament", while "the more educated Sheikh Hasina relishes parliamentary debate."

However, the article went on to criticize the Awami League leader for concentrating "on the obsessive pursuit of her father's killers."

Furthermore, the reporter suggested that the momentum

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and National Democratic Party

(NDP) over the Speaker's deci-

sion that he would give his rul-

ing on Golam Azam issue to-

of the speaker to give the rul-

ing before he switch over to

another agenda while the

speaker appealed to them to

grant him time for reviewing

the legal situation relating to

tion's walkout and throwing of

hard bound file covers to the

Treasury benchers the

sample of democratic be-

Information Minister said 'the

haviour' shown by the

Opposition Members today

would remain a bad prece-

dence to the parliamentarians

typical of the behaviour of

Awami League adding this

party seemed to be consistent

in its efforts to create anarchy

posals coming from the

Opposition Leader Sheikh

Hasina and Deputy Leader of

the House Badruddoza

Chowdhury the Information

Minister termed they were

virtually wanted to try Golam

Azam. There was no valid rea-

son for Awami League to stage

walkout on this issue, the

Minister said adding the minor

differences between the two

proposals could easily be min-

imised through mutual discus-

Defending the Speaker's

position Nazmul Huda said, he

really needed time to ponder

over the legal aspect before

pronouncing ruling on the is-

Information Minister said that

the Speaker sought time

completely on his own. The

Minister felt that the Speaker

might have in his mind a third

proposition about the issue

which was different from the

two proposals moved in the

house by the Treasury bench

and the Opposition on the one

hand or one accommodative of

the common points of the two

press conference of Awami

Commenting on the joint

proposals on the other.

DHAKA.

Replying to a question the

He said both the proposal

Referring to the two pro-

He however said, it is very

Referring to the opposi-

his possible ruling.

of the future.

in the country.

almost identified.

The opposition demanded

Walkout bad example

that overthrew President Ershad is being lost. It then quoted a Dhaka businessman as saying "the Bangladesh Nationalist Party came to power with the strongest mandate possible, and is behaving as though it was the weakest."

Continuing with his assessment of the economic scene
he criticized the administration's decision to give government workers' pay rises averaging 50 per cent and its
"capitulations" to the jute
workers and to road and rail
workers.

However, he endorses the

However, he endorses the policies of the Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on a number of economic issues. But he quotes Rahman as saying that his cabinet colleagues do not understand free market: "The Prime Minister is my only supporter."

Another minister quoted by the Economist is the BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, who interalia says, "I do not anticipate anything peaceful in this country." The correspondent points out that the minister's pessimism could be self-fulfilling and goes on to compare the situation in Bangladesh today with the situation in the Philippines six years ago.

The correspondent compares the "competent but corrupt" President Ershad with Ferdinand Marcos and Begum Zia with Corazon Aquino— also a housewife turned politician by the assassination of her husband and wonders whether the parallel will become still more complete.

Then he goes on to ask the questions: "Will Mrs Zia, like Mrs Aquino, squander international sympathy for her country's democracy? Will foreign aid be wasted in corruption and bureaucracy? Will natural catastrophes emphasise government incompetence?"

League and Jatiya Party, the

Information Minister said that

there might be new under-

standing between them to

keep the government busy

with the things not related to

Speaker asked for time to

formulate his ruling on the

Golam Azam issue, Parliament

could have easily started delib-

eration on the Rohingya issue-

a pressing one for the whole

nation. But the AL members

lent a deaf ear to the Speaker's

appeal in this regard and

proved that they were not sen-

sitive to the people's real

the newsmen.

problem, Nazmul Huda told

ernment would do if the

Opposition decided to not to

attend tomorrow's session the

Minister said that the BNP

would adopt all the constitu-

Parliament effective.

tional means to keep

hoped that good sense would

prevail over the opposition

members and they would join

tomorrow's session for effec-

tively taking part in the dis-

cussions on important issues

affecting the common people.

JN hall raid

From Page 1 Col 5

guestroom of the North Block

of Jagannath Hall yesterday at

about 3.30 pm with the help of

uniformed police and managed

to arrest Sentu with a cut-rifle

and five rounds of bullets.

from the guest room.

the first floor of the hall.

Kaikobad was also arrested

trying to flee by jumping from

(S-A) immediately after the ar-

rest brought out a procession

on the campus protesting the

arrests and police raid. A brief

rally of the organisation held at

the TSC compound after the

procession demanded imme-

diate release of its activists.

The rally was addressed by

Quamruzzaman Ansari, General

Secretary of its Dhaka

tors also set fire to a private

car at the Engineering

University campus and damage

several other vehicles at the

Some agitated demonstra-

University unit.

Palassy area.

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863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR,

Mamun was arrested while

Meanwhile, Chhatra League

The Minister, however,

When asked what the gov-

He observed that since the

the welfare of the people.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting different stalls of the US trade show at Hotel Sheraton yesterday.

—PID photo

US trade show

From Page 1 Col 7

government for creating a free market economy and the incentives given to foreign investors. "We also want to help forge a close linkage between our traders and entrepreneurs," she added.

Referring to the re-establishment of democracy in the country. Prime Minister said, "economic advancement and prosperity are the sine-quanon for consolidating democracy".

Begum Zia stressed the need for capital and technology for achieving rapid national autarky and sought cooperation of the developed countries especially of the United States.

Milam described the trade show as the testimony of strong economic bondage between the two countries and said this is also a demonstration of cooperation between the public and private sectors.

The US envoy expressed the hope that the show would be an annual event and that the commercial dimension in the US-Bangladeshi relationship would grow in importance.

Corruption

From Page 1 Col 8

Factory, Bangladesh Biman, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Bangladesh Handloom Board, Bangladesh Power Development Board, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Jessore, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, and Civil Aviation Authority.

The committee in its findings observed that most of these organizations violated the recommendations of Enam Committee and directives from the Ministry of Establishment while recruiting manpower.

According to the report, these organizations have been turned into family affair. Besides the workers and employees union unitedly interfere in running of the organizations.

The other findings include corruption, payment of bonuses on the basis of assumed profits, long overdue bank loans, and amount of liabilities crossing the limits of assets. The committee observed that serious allegations of corruption were against some senior employees of some organizations.

According to the report, these employees have accumulated wealth beyond their known income and are leading affluent lives.

Incidentally, one of the objectives of the committee is to suggest ways and means to clean different government of-

After identifying the corruptions practiced by different government an public sector employees the committee has suggested punitive measures against them.

Samad Azad

also blamed the government for violating all the decisions taken earlier by various parliamentary committees on the Golam Azam issue.

Samad Azad alleged that the government's conduct was hindering the way to make the Parliament effective.

Regarding the Rohingva is-

Regarding the Rohingya issue, Samad Azad said, "We raised the matter in Parliament when the Treasury Benchers opposed it.

Labour Law Commission

The government has constituted a Labour Law Commission for total industrialisation and to increase productivity, improve the worker-management relation and make the labour laws suited to the time and more democratic, reports

Justice Abdul Kuddus Chowdhury has been appointed Chairman of the Commission.

The Commission will submit its report to the government within six months.

AL, allies walkout

to people's court were declared closed by the Speaker at 6.11 pm.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury was the last person to speak on the subject and taking advantage of his privilege replied to criticisms made by the AL and its supporters.

As the Speaker closed the discussion, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Samad Azad stood up and wanted to say something.

In his reply and following the parliamentary practices, the Speaker declared his inability to allow Samad Azad to talk. This apparently angered them as most of the AL members stood up. The Speaker then adjourned the House for Magreb prayer.

After the Magreb recess the

Opposition members raised the issue again and said that no other discussions were acceptable to them without a decision on the issue of Golam Azam.

The Speaker stuck to his decision and asked Shahjahan Chowdhury of the BNP to start discussion on the Rohingya issue.

As Chowdhury started his deliberations most of the AL members stood up and started thumping their desks with file covers making him inaudible.

Before Chowdhury could finish, the Leader of the Opposition and AL chief Sheikh Hasina repeatedly tried to draw the attention of the Speaker. As she started saying something her voice was drowned in the thumping by members of the BNP.

Total pandemonium prevailed in the House for nearly ten minutes. The Opposition members throwing their files Later taking the floor, Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury wanted to know under which clause of the Rules of the Procedure the Opposition wanted to stop any discussion on the Rohingya issue. He commented that the walkout proved that the JP had an understanding with the AL beforehand.

Terming the incident sad, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury said that when everyone was trying to keep the parliamentary system going such an incident was unfortunate. He appealed to the Speaker to stop recurrence of such incidents.

After the walkout, the session continued with discussions on the Rohingya issue. Shahjahan Chowdhury, Ashraf Hossain and Oli Ahmed, all of the BNP and Enamul Huq of the Jamaat participated in the discussion.

The House was adjourned at 9 pm to meet on 4 pm tomorrow.

Trial body rally Sunday

By Staff Correspondent
The Muktijuddher Chetona
astobayan Committee reacti-

Bastobayan Committee reactivated its campaign against Jamaat and its controversial chief, Golam Azam, and announced its next course of programme on Thursday.

The Committee for Realisation of the Spirit of Liberation War said at a press conference at the National Press Club Thursday that it would bring out a torch procession on Saturday and hold a rally in front of the Baitul Mokarram Mosque on the following day.

It has also planned to hold a 'grand rally' on June 26 at Manik Mia Avenue.

Hasina: Tribunal From Page 1 Col 3 She said representatives of

From Page 1 ficers and jawans?"

She, however, said that the Bangabandhu government dfd not pardon the actual war criminals who were involved in killing, rape, looting and arson. The opposition leader quo-

ted different orders of the
Awami League government
cancelling citizenship of collaborators, including Golam
Azam and banning religionbased politics.

But she said, the Collaborators Act was repealed by the government of Ziaur Rahman which also allowed politics based on religion leading to revival of Jamaat politics.

Defending the formation of the people's court, Hasina rebuked the government leaders who are questioning the locus standi of the people's court and its constitutional provision. She also criticised those who are putting arguments to settle the matter in the court

of law.

The Leader of the Opposition said BNP was raising the same question as raised by the ministers of the Ershad government about the constitutional legality of the neutral caretaker government and the joint declaration of the three alliances.

In this context, she asked under which provisions of the Constitution Martial Law was declared, and under which constitutional provision Ershad was compelled to hand over power to a neutral caretaker government as prescribed by herself.

as to why Begum Zia had asked the people at a rally at Gulistan to try Ershad as a killer of her husband without going to the court and why the BNP government filed a case in the court against Ershad for usurping power from President

The opposition leader said people are the source of all power and quoted Article 7 of the Constitution which says, "All powers in the republic belong to the people."

ple's will.

the Constitution which says,
"All powers in the republic belong to the people."

Hasina said the denial of the people's court verdict tantamounts to denial of the peo-

She said representatives of the people's court had submitted memoranda to the Speaker, the Prime Minister and herself, and the government virtually accepted the legitimacy of the people's court by meeting with its sponsors.

Hasina advised the Treasury

Hasina advised the Treasury
Bench to honour the people's
will be implementing the verdict of the people's court.
Otherwise, she warned, the
ruling party will be held responsible for the consequences.

Najibullah

personally spoken by telephone on Thursday to Najibullah, whom he said was safe in Kabul.

AFP from Kabul says, Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil announced today that President Najibullah had been stripped of his powers following an attempt to flee the country early today.

Wakil also confirmed that Yaqubi committed suicide this morning.

"He went into his office an

"He went into his office an about six o'clock last night, told his aide he did not want to be disturbed," and then a gunshot was heard, a source said.

The source said Yaqubi had died from a gunshot wound to the forehead and that there was 'no question of murder'.

Iran Radio, monitored ear-

lier by the British Broadcasting
Corporation, named the head
of the military council as Bani
Azimi, first Deputy Defence
Minister of the Kabul government.

"A military council headed

by Bani Azimi, first Deputy Defence Minister of the Kabul regime, has been formed and has assumed power", the radio said. Ruling party sources said

Ruling party sources said earlier the 44-year-old President tried to flee Kabul on Wednesday but was thwarted by hundreds of dissident troops holding the airport.

One party source said he might have taken sanctuary with the United Nations, but that could not be confirmed. (Related story on Page 5)

People's court organisers are evil forces,

Says Nizami

Jamaat-e-Islami leader in

Parliament Maulana Mattur

Rahman Nizami yesterday held
that the issue of Golam Azam
was "subjudice" and the discussions on him might influence the decision of the Court,
report UNB.

Registering a note of protest Nizami said, "this may embarrass the Court and create obstacle in fair justice."

Taking part in the lengthy debate on controversial Jamaat chief Prof Golam Azam, Nizami quoted relevant rules of procedure of the House which restricted discussion on matters pending in the Court.

He pointed to a rule nisi issued on the government upon a writ filed by the Jamaat chief as to why his detention will not be held illegal.

On Awami League demand for trial of Prof Azam for war crimes, Nizami said he (Azam) was already tried by them (Awami League) by taking away his citizenship. They had no scope of trying him further, his name could not even be included in the list they prepared of 195 war criminals.

"We are ready to obey the verdict of the highest seat of justice", he added referring to the Writ of Golam Azam pending in the High Court.

The Jamaat leader refuted the Awami League charge that while in London Prof Azam had formed a committee for restoration of "East Pakistan". He had no association nor contact with the organisers of socalled East Pakistan Restoration Committee, Nizami said.

Referring to the organisers of so-called people's court. Nizami said they are neither Awami Leaguers nor BNP men. They are an evil force trying to divert the attention of the nation from the burning issues like staggering unemployment and the Farakka that deserted northern part of the country.

Pointing to the questionable activities of organisers of the people's court during the holy month of Ramzan the Jamaat leader cautioned the ruling party against taking responsibility of such activities.

"In the interest of the nation you must not acknowledge anything which may disgrace the rule of law", he said pointing to the treasury benches.

Frequently jeered by Awami League members, Maulana Nizami said the discussion on an individual amply demonstrates that they (Awami League) were a afraid of facing him (prof Azam) politically.

3 burnt to death in Bogra

BOGRA, Apr 16: Three people, including a woman, were burnt to death and 12 injured in an arson at a house at Shajapur Chakpara during a video show Wednesday night, reports UNB.

reports UNB.

The dead were identified as
Zabeda (25), Yusuf Ali (25) and

Mohsin Ali (10).

The Midmight Kile US, Germany for suspension

tion," reports AFP.

of Y'slav seat at CSCE

BONN, Apr 16: Germany and the United States want Yugoslavia's seat at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to be suspended to punish Serbia for the bloodshed in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the German Foreign Ministry said today. It said US Secretary of state James Baker and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of Germany had agreed on the move in a telephone conversation Wednesday that declared the need for "joint and decisive ac-

Cong-1 holds first internal elections

TIRUPATI (India), Apr 16: India's ruling Congress party held its first internal elections in 21 years today after Prime Minister Narasimha Rao broke with tradition and refused to appoint a top party committee. Human Resources minister Arjun Singh, long considered a candidate for Prime Minister, won the most votes in the elections to the party's Working Committee at the end of a three-day convention the southern Hindu temple town of Tirupati. Singh's chief rival, Defence Minister Sharad Pawar, also won election to the 21-seat committee, the party's main policy-making organ, reports

Seen from the Gallery

From Page 1 Col 2

This shows how we are getting used to practices of parliamentary democracy, especially regards for rights to differ.

The issue of Golam Azam
was generating enough heat for
the last four days and by the
time the discussions on the
subject came to a close a deci-

sion was expected.

But the Speaker regretted that he was not in a position to give a decision immediately and needed some time. Explaining the reasons to independent member Nurul Islam Moni he said 'Mr Moni you have elected a bluntheaded speaker who can't take

Tofael Ahmed of the Awami
League humorously added 'If

BNP proposal

From Page 1 Col 5 the present parliament on thirty occasions.

Moreover, he said, the Jamaat and AL unitedly went for parliamentary polls under autocratic Ershad regime in 1986 while BNP rejected the offer.

In a bid to refute Shajahan Siraj's accusation that the BNP was defending Golam Azam Professor Chowdhury said that in fact the BNP was defending the Constitution and rule of law.

Refuting Jamaat leader Maulana Nizami's claim that the government and Awami League was pressing for steps against Golam Azam because they did not have courage to combat both Golam Azam's politics and personality through ideological struggle, Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury said, BNP and the people of the independent Bangladesh could not have any reason to be afraid of people like Golam Azam who was a recognised collaborator of the Pakistan occupation forces during the War country's Independence.

you say you are blunt is not correct. The Speaker is sharper than the razor.' But humour failed to cool

down the anger and the emotion charged members were in no mood to compromise on the issue. They insisted on the decision from the Speaker.

As the Speaker went on in-

As the Speaker went on insisting that the decision be delayed the opposition members lost their composure and rose to their feet to protest.

Finding no solution to their demand they staged a walk out throwing files and making noises.

Deliberations on Golam

Azam released emotion and

revived memories of the War of Liberation in many.

Earlier, in her winding up speech on the subject, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina ran the whole gamut of her emotions from A to Z. Her

comments moved Farida

Hasan, the BNP member.

whose husband Sayeedul Hasan

was killed by the occupation forces.

As Hasina concluded her speech the session was adjourned for lunch. With tears in her eyes Farida Hasan came to Hasina and received a sym-

The emotionally charged
Awami League members
chanted the Joy Bangla slogan
and with slogans followed their
leader through the corridors

Emotion had a different expression when Hamidullah Khan of the BNP was allowed to take the floor to discuss the issue of Golam Azam. He narrated the history of his personal valour as a freedom

Proceedings of Parliament.

Hamidullah was so much agitated that he said 'We want the trial of Golam Azam and on this question those of our party who did not put valid words we are not with them.'

fighter to be recorded in the

That undisciplined outbursts of emotion can lead to unwelcome events was once again proved.

