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## Jamaat abandons ruling IDA

# Sharif seeks Benazir's help

LAHORE, Pakistan, May 6: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, abandoned by Islamic fundamentalist allies, said today he was seeking co-operation from opposition leader Benazir Bhutto to run the country, reports Reuters.

He told reporters in the Punjab province capital of Lahore that he had written to Bhutto, a bitter rival throughout his 18-month-old conservative government.

He said he sought her co-operation to build a congenial political atmosphere in the larger national interest.

Sharif said he expected a positive response from Bhutto, who has accused authorities of victimising her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) since she was sacked as Premier in 1990

on disputed charge of abusing power.

Several previous attempts to reconcile the two leaders founded on opposition from Sharif's hardline colleagues who believe Bhutto's secular views run counter to Pakistan's Islamic state ideology.

Bhutto received the letter on April 28 and is discussing it with colleagues before considering a possible reply, a PPP spokesman said.

The fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party quit Sharif's Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) yesterday. Its parliamentary leader, Liaquat Baluch, accused Sharif of failing to carry out a commitment to enforce full Islamic law.

He also told a news conference the government had fol-

lowed 'the American line' in Afghanistan and had compromised on Pakistan's nuclear programme.

Political sources said Jamaat's departure from the seven-party IDA was unlikely to pose an immediate danger to Sharif's government, which, with the help of other allies, has big majorities in both houses of parliament.

Another report says, Nawaz Sharif today blamed the head Jamaat-e-Islami Party for inter-Mujahideen fighting in Afghanistan.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, the Jamaat leader, is responsible for the confrontation between Mujahideen and the killing of innocent people, the official Associated Press of Pakistan quoted Sharif as saying.

Sharif told reporters in Lahore that if fighting between rival Mujahideen factions intensified and there was more killing, Pakistan would hold Ahmed accountable for the 'tragic consequences.'

Jamaat's disassociation from the IJI was Ahmed's personal decision Sharif said, accusing the party leader had attacking him within '24 hours' of becoming Prime Minister in November 1990.

Sharif said he was ready to face any Jamaat campaign against him. 'We are not weak on that side,' he said.

The well-organised religious party, considered influential among urban middle class, has a strong youth wing deeply entrenched in universities and colleges.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting a stall at the apparel export exhibition at Sonargaon Hotel, yesterday.

## PM opens BAT Expo '92

# Success in garments sector singular

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday said the government had taken up policies of free market economy to inspire and strengthen the private sector, reports BSS.

She said her government was giving emphasis on the export-oriented industries since the focal point of 'our economic policies is expansion of export trade.'

Begum Zia was inaugurating a three-day Bangladesh Apparel and Textile (BAT) Expo '92 at Sonargaon hotel here Wednesday morning.

The function was also addressed by Commerce Minister M K Anwar, Commerce Secretary Nazim Ahmed Chow-

dhury, Vice-Chairman of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Wailul Islam and President and First Vice-President respectively of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain and L F Azim.

Referring to the facilities given to the exporters for boosting economy, the Prime Minister said that exporters were getting better benefits than in the past. 'We have made provisions of incentives for foreign investors which were hitherto absent in the country,' she said.

Begum Zia said the Export Processing Zone in Chittagong is vibrating as a result of the

work generated there. She said the country was earning Taka 1.05 billion annually out of the forty one units in the EPZ. 'Another 14 units will start functioning very soon,' she said.

The Prime Minister referred to her recent visit to the United States and said that she had observed keen interest among the investors to invest in Bangladesh. 'Similar eagerness is being shown by investors from other countries as well,' she said.

She stressed the need for absolute peace and stable atmosphere in the industrial zones.

Dwelling on the garment

## Code of conduct for cabinet members soon

By Nazmul Ashraf

A code of conduct for the members of Cabinet is in the offing, highly-placed sources said.

The Cabinet Division has drafted the code providing a greater accountability of the Cabinet Members to the head of the government — the Prime Minister, officials said adding the draft code is now being examined by the Law Ministry.

The code will be placed at a Cabinet meeting for approval soon after the Law Ministry concludes studying the legal implications of the matter.

According to the code, sources said, all Ministers, See Page 12 Col 2

## Rohingya repatriation

# Milam for raising issue at UN if accord fails

By Staff Correspondent

William B Milam, the US ambassador to Dhaka, has said that Bangladesh should again 'internationalise' the Rohingya issue if the bilateral agreement for the repatriation of the refugees does not work.

In such a situation, 'international options must be opened up', said the ambassador yesterday at a press briefing where he spoke on US-Bangladesh relations and other related issues.

Praising Bangladesh's 'extremely prudent' approach

to the problem, Milam expressed mixed feelings on the merit of the agreement that the foreign ministers of Bangladesh and Myanmar signed last week.

'(It is) good agreement in many respects ... but there are some elements which are problematic.'

'The agreement enshrines the voluntariness' which, he said, was an 'important' point. The ambassador, however, said that an international involve-

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## BCI, NCL irregularities

# Ministries asked to probe involvements

By Inam Ahmed and Sohel Manzur

The Government has instructed all the ministries to conduct investigations into possible involvement of their respective departments and corporations in the irregularities of the BCI and NCL.

According to Finance Ministry sources, they have also been instructed to prepare reports and submit those to the Ministry.

The Anti-Corruption Department was also conducting criminal investigation into all the government organisations separately, the sources said, adding that the reports were likely to be finalised by next week.

Meanwhile, the audit report on NCL (National Credit Limited) was prepared yesterday.

According to the Bangladesh Bank sources,

some irregularities were detected in the audit, which include conducting of banking activities illegally and the taking of excessive loans by the Directors of the NCL.

The Finance Ministry, however, asked the audit report from the Bangladesh Bank by today. It will be submitted to Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on Saturday, according to the sources.

Besides, the inspection of the BCI by the Bangladesh Bank could not be held until yesterday as it was yet to receive permission of the court to seize the documents of the company.

The government has in the meantime prepared a list of the property of the BCI head office and some other branches of the company.

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# Khaleda running govt at foreign masters' dictates: Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina Wednesday blasted Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for 'inept' handling of the state affairs and accused her of running the government at the dictates of foreign masters, reports UNB.

'Begum Zia is ruling the country relying on intelligence reports and telephonic advice of the Prime Minister of a foreign country,' she said but did not elaborate.

Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, made the accusation and brought a series of other allegations against her political ri-

val Begum Zia while addressing a big public rally at Jurat yesterday afternoon.

Replying to the Prime Minister's allegation of 'conspiracy' against her government, Hasina said that Begum Zia, having failed to run the country, is clamouring about conspiracy 'only to cover up her own inefficiency and ineptitude.'

'Begum Zia is perhaps sensing trouble and seeing conspiracy within herself,' the Awami League chief said. 'If there is any conspiracy, why not let the people know about

See Page 12 Col 4

## Clash over Indian cow

# 3 killed in BDR firing

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, May 6: At least three persons were killed in BDR firing at Mahastangar hat Wednesday 10 kilometers from here. At 2 pm a group of BDR men went to Mahastangar hat in an operation to seize Indian cows.

The trouble started when the BDR men stopped some cattle suspecting those to be smuggled from across the border. The cattle traders along with the local people challenged the BDR men and at one stage threw stones at the BDR personnel.

BDR opened fire in self defence resulting in the death of three persons and injury to 20 others.

The dead were identified as Zahedul Islam, 30, son of Amu Zakir of village Sathimulia, Arizur Rahman, 35, son of Asgar Ali of village Noongola and Akram Hossain, 24, of village Dashchika.

UNB quotes local people as saying that as many as six persons died in the firing.

Of the injured, Biswanath, 18, was admitted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital in a critical condition.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area.

## Talks on PM's visit to Delhi continue

Negotiations are continuing between Dhaka and New Delhi to finalise Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's visit to India, earlier scheduled to take place by the end of this month.

A reliable told UNB that Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka K Raghunath yesterday (Wednesday) met with Additional Foreign Secretary A F Mahmood Ali at the foreign office. The forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Begum Zia came up during the meeting.

Foreign Ministry officials preferred not to make any comment at this stage on the Prime Minister's visit to India.

A senior official, however, said negotiations are on between the two governments but the date for the visit has not yet been finalised.

The Indian High Commissioner is likely to call on Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman today (Thursday) to further discuss the matter.

## Myanmar prepares to receive Rohingya refugees

BANGKOK, May 6: Myanmar military government today dispatched 77 immigration officials to Western border areas to begin processing Muslim refugees who return from Bangladesh, Yangon radio said, reports AFP.

The immigration officials left Yangon by special plane for Mongdaw township in Arakan state where five camps will be set up later this month to receive back more than 240,000 Muslim refugees, the officials radio said in a broadcast monitored in Bangkok.

Talks last month between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries led to agreement on repatriating the refugees, who have said they fled into Bangladesh to escape atrocities by Myanmar troops including killings, rape and the razing of entire villages. The Yangon government denies this.

## Section 144 in Satkhira, Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 6: The district magistrate of Satkhira imposed Section 144 in and around the Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park from 6 am tomorrow, apprehending a clash between supporters of the 'Gano Adalat' (people's court) and Jamaat-e-Islami.

Earlier, both the 'Ektaturer Ghatak-Dalal' Nirmul Committee and Jamaat announced the holding of public meetings at the same time and venue.

UNB adds: Authorities yesterday clamped Section 144 in the premises of Islamia College and adjoining Public Library as two local factions of BNP announced the holding of rallies at the same venue Wednesday afternoon.

# The unguarded treasure trove

From Masud Hasan Khan

MYMENSINGH, May 6: The Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahasala (museum), robbed of its 17 priceless works, now stands bare on the bank of the old Brahmaputra river in Mymensingh town.

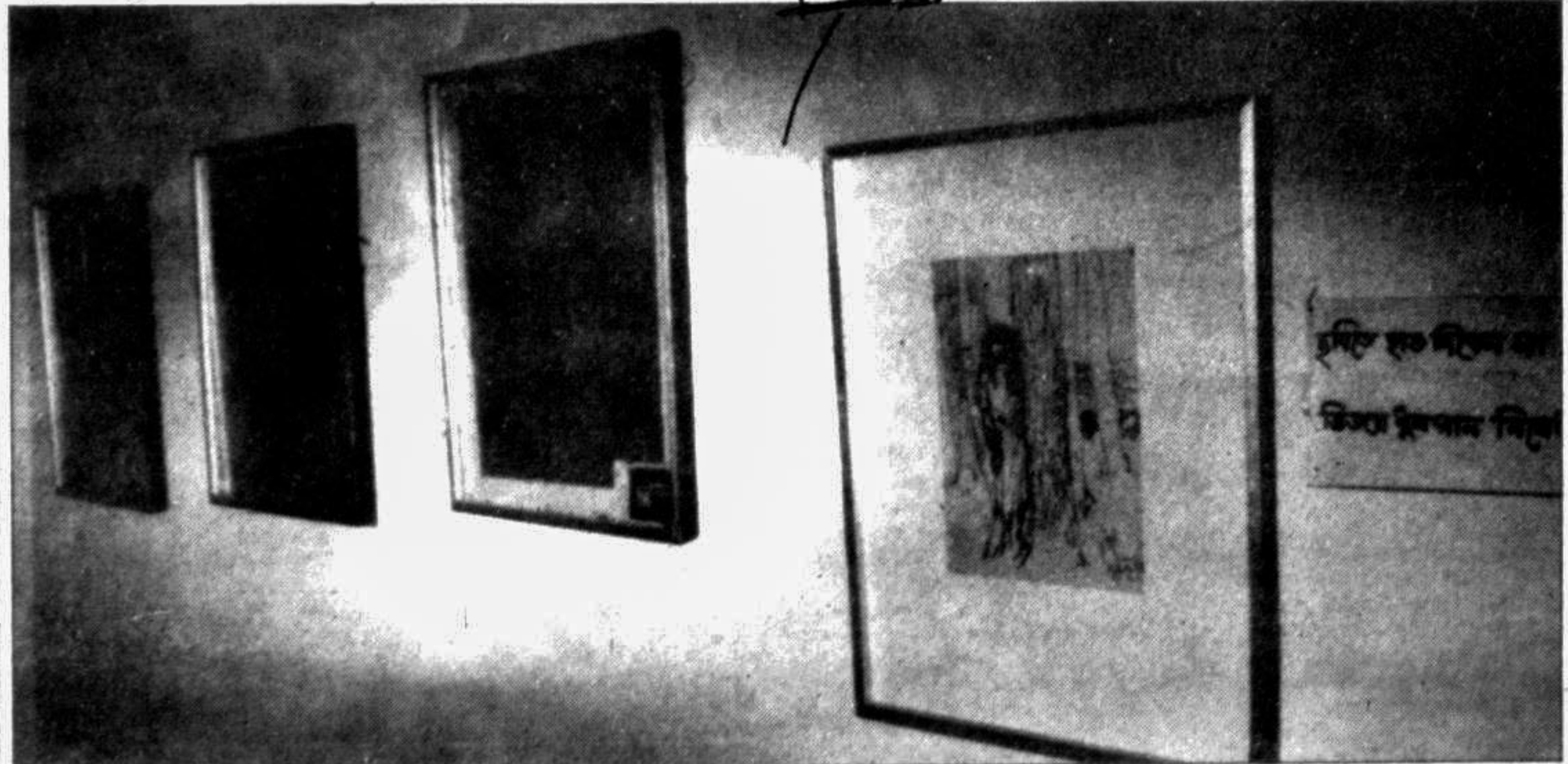
Relatives of the Shilpacharya have appealed to the nation to help recover the valuable works of the genius while police prepare themselves for a vigorous hunt.

A group of armed robbers

on May 2 broke into the museum, located at a lonely corner in the hometown of Zainul Abedin, and left with 17 works in water colour, pen-ink and wash. These included the 'Immortals' like the first and

third ones in the famous 'Famine' series, 'Pratikkhaye Ghat' (waiting at the river port), 'Steamer Ghat', 'Veranda', 'Hamberto', 'Near the Niagara Falls' and the 'Goon'.

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Some of the empty frames inside the Mymensingh Museum where once were exhibits of Zainul Abedin (above) and two unarmed guards at the entrance of the museum (right).



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Tagore's birthday: PM opens function today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate a three-day programme in observance of Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary at national level at Shahzadpur in Sirajganj district tomorrow at 4 p.m. Radio Bangladesh will broadcast the inaugural function from Shahzadpur and all the regional stations will relay the programme simultaneously, reports BSS.

### Red Cross Day tomorrow

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere round the globe tomorrow (Friday). The day's slogan this time is 'Humanity: United in Calamity,' reports UNB.

### Chinese acrobatic team due today

A 25-member Chinese acrobatic troupe arrives in Dhaka today (Thursday) under the Bangladesh-China cultural agreement, a Shilpakala Academy press release said. The team will exhibit acrobatic show in Comilla and Dhaka during their nine-day visit.