PM: Nazrul

From Page 1 Col 4

Quazi and Durjoy, granddaughter and grandson of the late

poet. She was also presented

with a golden crest on Nazrul's

Begum conducted the inaugu-

ral song at the function.

Noted Nazrul singer Firoza

Later, the Prime Minister

visited a fair, organised by the

Bangladesh Small and Cottage

Industries Corporation, at

Trisal Nazrul (Degree) College

here and went round some of

book fair arranged on the oc-

casion of the anniversary of

Comilla Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia said the ideals

and thughts of national poet

Kazi Nazrul Islam provide us

with a sense of direction to

national level programme to

celebrate the 93rd birth an-

niversary of the National Poet

Kazı Nazrul Islam, Begum Zia

said. Poet Nazrul was a source

of inspiration in our struggle

during the War of Liberation as

well as the anti-autocracy

tarian rule has been driven

away from our soil, the vices of

the 9-year autocratic rule like

crosion of moral values and

distorted culture still re-

"We shall have to strike

hard to climinate those", the

Prime Minister said and called

upon all to work with utmost

sincerity and dedication in

orienting our culture with the

as a jewel in the fabric of our

literature and culture, she said

adding that his works could

propel vigour and endeavour in

changing the lot of the com-

would remain a permanent

witness to the chequered ca-

reer of the rebel poet as the

The rebel poet derived

much inspiration from the

lively activities of this town to

The Prime Minister lauded

The inauguration session of

the Nazrul Institute for playing

an effective role in the preser

compose many of his poems

and songs", she said.

town was very dear to him.

Begum Zia said Comilla

The poet will always remain

mained in our midst.

essence of nationalism.

She said although the totali-

movement.

Inaugurating a three-day

establish cultural democracy

Begum Zia also visited a

At another function in

the 100 stalls set up there.

birth of the poet.

## Thai parliament begins overhaul of constitution

BANGKOK, May 25: Parliament began an overhaul of the constitution Monday to reduce the power of the military, a day after the despised, armybacked prime minister was ousted by a popular uprising. reports AP.

By an overwhelming margin, lawmakers gave initial approval to reforms demanded by hundreds of thousands of Thais who demonstrated on the streets last week against six decades of military dominance.

Prime Minister Suchinda Kraprayoon, a former army chief, resigned Sunday because of public outrage over the military's bloody suppression of the rallies. At least 48 people died as troops clubbed and shot demonstrators.

Suchinda, who toppled an elected government in 1991, was named prime minister April 7 by a coalition of promilitary parties formed after parliamentary elections in March. He did not run in the election.

The constitutional amendments approved Monday say the prime minister must be an elected politician; bar the military-appointed Senate from voting on legislation; and require that the Parliament president come from the elected lower house and not the Senate, the current practice.

Three votes are required for passage of the amendments. The process normally takes more than a month. But because of public pressure, Parliament held two votes Monday and will hold the final vote June 10.

The reforms almost certainly will be passed because

they are supported by both the opposition and governing parties, which abandoned Suc hinda last week. The revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej also supports the reforms.

There is disagreement, however, on when the reforms should take effect. The opposition parties want the changes effective immediately upon passage, while the government parties want an interim period.

#### Beximco offices stormed, drug truck burnt

By Staff Correspondent

A group of unidentified persons exploded crackers at two offices of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited in Dhanmondi residential area in the city Monday, according to police

The hurled crackers at godown of Beximeo at Dhanmondi Road No-7 and set ablaze a truck carrying medicines near the office at around

A Fire Service team rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control immedi ately, according to fire service

Immediately after the incident the group of musclemen exploded at least seven crackers at the head office of Beximco, at Dhanmondi Road No-2 at around 2 pm.

The attackers also damaged a private car near the office and managed to escape by auto rickshaws.

the Deputy Commissioner, de-

cided to form a "Communal

liarmony Restoration Com-

mittee", with prominent

leaders and the elite, to main-

town-dwellers to help the in-

quiry committee, recently

formed to probe into the May

20 incident in the town and

urged the government to send

more relief goods for the vic-

the Pahari Chhatra Parishad to

refrain from giving mislead

ing statements. Central lead-

ers of the Parishad were pre-

Chakma King Debashish Roy

held a press conference at

which he sought all out coop-

eration from the community in

at recent press reports that

said the Pahari Chhatra Pari

shad reportedly held meeting

such meeting was held at his

restore the communal har-

mony in the town", he said,

adding "I am ready to work

shoulder to shoulder with the

local leaders for the im-

imposed by the authorities,

continued for the sixth con-

secutive day today when no

untoward incident was-re-

Meanwhile, Section 144

provement of situation here."

"I will work my level best to

at his residence. He said

He expressed his surprise

Later in the evening.

It also told the members of

tims of the area.

sent at the meeting.

maintaining peace.

residence.

tain peace and harmony in the

The meeting asked the

# Shantibahini

From Page 1 Col 5 Section 144 was imposed following violence between two student groups Wednesday, gripped the town again following the latest killings, residents told The Daily Star over telephone.

The killings touched off protests by leaders of various local organisations.

Those who protested the killings included Convenor of the Chittagong Human Rights Preservation Committee, President of the Bangladesh Human Rights Commission, Presidents of district Awami League and BNP, the Coordinator Rangamati Oikya Parishad and former Presidential and Adviser B K Dewan.

UNB adds: a meeting to review the overall situation at Rangamati town following last week's trouble was held with Deputy Commissioner Aftab Uddin Ahmed in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting urged the res idents of the town not to pay heed to any rumors and asked them to guard against all sorts of propaganda.

It was attended among others by former presidential advisors - Subimal Dewan and Bonoy Kumar Dewan, Raja Debashis Roy, BNP leader Nazimuddin, Awami League leader Rehan Uddin, local government representative Gano Bikash Chakma, president of Pahari Chhatra Parishad Proisith Khisha and the elite of the town.

Today's meeting, called by

## India declares 2 Pak diplomats persona non grata

NEW DELHI, May 25: India declared two Pakistani diplomats persona non grata on charges of spying today, in retaliation to the expulsion Sunday of an Indian diplomat from Islamabad, reports AFP.

The External Affairs Ministry said the Pakistani High Commission (Embassy) had been asked to withdraw counsellors Syed Fayyaz Mahmood Endrabi and Zafarul Hasan within 48 hours.

A Ministry spokesman said the two "have been acting in violation of accepted norms of diplomatic functions and ... indulging in activities which are clearly prejudicial to the secu-

rity of India" - diplomatic jargon for spying. He said the Pakistani action appeared to be response to the arrest of "several Pakistani intelligence operatives" in India eight weeks earlier who he

added were "caught red handed" in New Delhi and in the northern state of Punjab. Pakistan expelled Mittal, a counsellor in the Indian High

Commission (embassy) in Islamabad.

### Editor: S. M. Ali

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DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Moniruzzaman Miah along with teachers and employees of the university placing wreaths at the mazar of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam -Star photo yesterday.

# Masood, Hekmatyar agree to end war, hold poll in 6 months

rebel chiefs on Monday agreed to put behind them their long standing differences that have weakened the month-old is lamic interim government in war-weary Afghanistan, reports

Guerilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Defense Minister Ahmed Shah Masood, following a seven-hour meeting, vowed to end the fighting from 14 years of civil war. They also called for national election within six months and for the withdrawal of all militia forces from the capital.

"This is a historical occasion." Masood said at the end of the meeting held at lickmatyar's base 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of Kabul.

Hekmatyar, leader of the Hazb-e- Islami, or Party of Islam, has refused to join the interim government until the Uzbek militia, headed by Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, is pulled out of the capital.

Despite Monday's agreement, it was uncertain if Dostum's fighters can be forced to leave the city.

While the two longtime en-

KABUL, May 25: Two rival emics talked about peace, ing to dominate the interim lickmatyar's forces clashed with the Uzbek militia on the southern edge of Kabul in fighting that witnesses said left at least 18 people dead.

> The thud of rockets and heavy artillery and blasts of machine-gun fire erupted late Sunday, echoing for several hours through the curlew bound capital

> Sporadic blasts began after sunrise Monday and continued until sunset. A column of tanks was seen

> moving through the city strects toward southern Kabul. where the fighting was concentrated.

The fighting resumed just hours before Hekmatyar and Masood met for the first time since the Islamic government replaced the Communist regime of ousted President Najibullah. The two rival chiefs had

aside their differences to bat tle a succession of Kremlinbacked governments. The Red Army ended its more than nine- year occupation in February 1989.

But leaders had been seek-

rebel government that took power April 28.

Earlier, interim President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi had refused to give in to Hekmat yar's demands, calling Dostum 'a great Islamic warrior" and praising him to help topple Najibullah.

The president last week promoted Dostum to a full rank of general in the new islamic army, a gesture that prompted sharp criticism from Hekmatyar and other fundamentalist leaders.

At a news conference Monday, Mojaddidi released an April 5 letter from Hekmatyar to Dostum, backing the militia commander's attempt to topple Najibullah's government and restore peace and order to Alghanistan.

"Your courageous attempts are praiseworthy," said the let ter on Hekmatyar's official sta tionery and signed the Amir of Hezb- e- Islami.

"I pray for your further suc cesses to end the war and revation and collection of the store peace," it said. works of the rebel poet. Earlier report on Page 5

the programme at the local stadium was also addressed among others by Commerce Minister MK Anwar, Works Minister Barrister Rafigul Islam Miah, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahanara Begum and Rabeya Chowdhury MP. Later the Prime Minister naugurated a book fair.

From Page 1 Col 5 cultural function at the 'batamul' of the Academy which followed the discussion.

Chhayanat, a leading cultural organisation of the country, also arranged musical and dance programme at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium at 7 pm to celebrate Nazrul's birth anniversary.

a rally at the road island near the Dhaka University TSC and brought out a procession to mark the day.

ladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolan and Janadal also organised separate programmes to celebrate the day.

### Myanmar

was led by Mr Dauduzzaman Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner, Cox's Bazar, while a 10member Myanmar team was led by Director of Immigration U Aung Sein.

specific rules should be followed in preparing the list of Rohingya refugees to avoid any complication after their repatriation. The names, address and other particulars of each refugee to be repatriated should be clearly mentioned in the lists.

The sources also said that Myanmar side assured the Bangladesh team of full security of the Rohingyas after their repatriation.

complete at the shortest possible time necessary formalities connected with preparation of the Rohingya refugee lists in order to expedite repatriation works.

### Workers Party demand week begins

By Staff Correspondent The General Secretary of Bangladesh Workers Party, Rashed Khan Menon on Monday demanded improvement of law and order situation for the economic development of the country. He said, development and terrorism can not go hand

occasion of the launching of 14- point demand week of the Bangladesh Workers Party in

# The Midnight File

# Iran warns of fresh crackdown

on 'social vices' NICOSIA, May 25: An Iranian official has warned of a new crackdown on "social vices", the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Monday.

The crackdown is expected to end a brief relaxation of strict Islamic laws, which demand that women cover themselves head to foot in public and prohibit socializing between the sexes, reports AP.

#### 14 more killed in Punjab violence

CHANDIGARH, May 25: Five juntor engineers, a deputy chief and a Lt Gen of separate faction of the Khalistan Commando Force were among 14 people killed in Punjab since last night. Militants shot dead five junior engineers of an electricity company at Ralla village in Mansa district last night. Two others where injured in the incident. According to police all the victims were from Tamil Nadu, reports PTI.

# Hasina: Corruption

From Page ! Col 7

tune through illegal means, making the poor poorer." The Awami League chief

further alleged that misrule of the inefficient government has deepened problems in every spheres of national life political, economic and social.

prices of essentials, including rice, flour, pulses and clothes, have increased 6 to 27 times in last 15 years of rule by 'autocratic regimes."

Sufferings of the poor and the limited income groups have aggravated as the people lost their buying capacity because of continued price-hike, Hasina said, adding that the present government has no control over the market.

The Awami League chief outlined her party's new economic policy and said it was designed to generate employment, increase agricultural and industrial production and set up export-oriented industries as well as small and cot tage industries in rural areas.

"The people-oriented economic policy of Awami League is to attain a self-reliant economy and an exploitation-free society," she said.

Presided over by Jhikargachha Thana Awami League President Rabiul Alam, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Dr Mohammad Selim, Mansur Ahmed Gazi, MP, Khan Tipu Sultan,

### Zohora

From Page 1 Col 7

hora Tajuddin who, among other elderly leaders of the AL, s known to be an advocate of collective leadership' in the party, and favours 'democratic practices' within the party.

According to sources, the younger section of the party's Working Committee would propose disciplinary action against her.

Mostafa Mohsin Mantu, the General Secretary of the Dhaka district unit of the AL and Chairman of the party's youth front, was suspended from the party by a unanimous decision of the AL Working Committee on March 5 last on charge of involvement in the killing of Maniruzzaman Badal, organising secretary of the party's student wing, on January 9 this year.

Meanwhile, sources said the Working Committee meeting would approve the Khan Mailish led faction of the Dhaka district unit which held its council session at Savar on the same day the Mantu led faction had their council session at the Engineers Institution, in Dhaka.

An AL leader having sympathy for Zohora Tajuddin told this correspondent yesterday on condition of anonymity that despite the fact that Zohora Tajuddin was right in criticizing the AL high command for its undemocratic attitude, she made the remarks in a 'wrong place'. He, however, told The Daily

Star that the elderly leaders of the party sharing some of her views would defend her in the Working Committee meeting. But the younger section of

the AL leadership believes that letting Zohora's remark go unchallenged will encourage others to make further aspersions on the party high command, sources say.

## Biman

From Page 1 Col 8

As a result the flight had to leave for Dhaka without picking up any passenger.

The Biman had to pay over 10 thousand US dollars for the landing and refueling which it would not have had to pay, had the plane flown direct to Dhaka.

Biman management sources

MP, Rakibur Rahman, Prof. Rafiqui Islam, MP, and Daily Al-Amin Editor Alhaj Makbul

The Opposition Leader said that after assuming state power, BNP has been ruling the country in 'Tughlagi style". Chaos, indiscipline, unlimited corruption, abuse of power and repression on opposition, she alleged, marked the rule of Prime minister

Begum Zia. \*Parliamentary Democracy has been restored but the ruling party cares a fig for parliamentary practices", Hasina said adding that the government spurned the opposition cooperation as "it does not believe in democracy".

She warned that people would not spare the government, if the hard-won democracy falters because of its wrongdoings.

## Khaleda leaves

From Page 1 Col 7 Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi a

She was invited to pay an official visit to India by Prime Minister Rao when the two met in Harare and Colombo.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister had also extended a similar invitation to her Indian counterpart.

Begum Zia has a hectic itinerary in India including talks with Rao and meeting with President R Venkataraman. Indian Minister for Water Resources and State Minister for External Affairs will call on

UNB adds: Former Indian Foreign Minister IK Gujral of Janata Dal and HKS Surject of CPI (M) are expected to meet with the Bangladesh leader. Her itinerary includes lay-

ing of wreath at the Samadis of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawahar al Nehru. She will visit the

Nizamuddin Aulia (RA) Dargah Sharif and the shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti at Ajmeer.

Begum Zia will attend a reception at the Bangladesh High Commission.

Senior Editors of India will meet the Bangladesh Prime On way back home on

Thursday, Begum Zia will have a stopover at Damdam Airport in Calcutta where West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu is expected to call on her.

Editorial on Page 4

#### Guest houses From Page 1 Col 7

ness. The occupants of many of the guest houses are their personal or business guests, they added.

Answering a question on how they got customers or boarders in their houses, a staff of a guest house in Banani area told The Daily Star that "they have contacts with the taxicab drivers of the Zia International Airport who supply them with clients."

The managers and owners constantly keep in touch with a section of airport officials, embassies, donor agencies, non-government organisations (NGOs) and big business houses to have boarders, it is earnt.

"Many of the guest houses have a three- star hotel standard but rents are comparatively low to lure the guests," a staff of a guest house in Gulshan area said.

The staff of all the 'guest houses' that were visited by this correspondent claimed to be doing clean business and categorically rejected the allegations of creating public nui-

But a manager, contacted by telephone told The Daily Star that sometimes they are "forced to allow call-girls into their guest houses by local influential people and mastans." He did not elaborate.

The neighbouring residents, contacted by The Daily Star kept away from commenting on whether they felt any trouble by the guest houses being close to their residences.

When contacted the DCC Mayor said that he had no proper idea about those guest houses and that he had to inquire into the matter before making any comment.

# MBBS test From Page 1 Col 8

sion test, held on April 10. were lcaked. The handout said the

ported.

committee had examined the method of setting the question papers, their despatch to the examination centres and distribution. Besides the committee had recorded the statements of the concerned authorities of the board which conducted the tests. It has also recorded and examined the oral and written statements of those, who raised the

According to the handout, the written test was held under the MCQ method and papers were judged by computers. It was found by the committee that the required number of students did not obtain the qualifying 60 per cent

marks in the written test. Considering all aspects, the handout said, it was decided unanimously that no justifiable proofs had been found about the leakage of question papers and the allegations

were thus totally unfounded. The government has accepted the report of the committee and re-fixed 55 per cent marks for qualifying in the test, in view of the fact that the required number of students had not obtained the 60 per cent marks.

### **Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

DHAKA.

# Ershad, Mosharraf face fresh corruption charge

Former President HM Ershad and his industries secretary AKM Mosharraf Hossain were Monday brought to the dock on a new charge of sustaining Tk 35 lakh loss to Shilpa Bank by abusing their

responsible.

powers, reports UNB. They were charged in the Special Court of Mohammad Ali Khan under Section 5 (1) (d) and 5 (2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947. The offence is punishable by a

maximum of seven years in jail. The 62-year deposed presi dent has already been sen tenced to 13 years in jail for keeping illegal arms and amassing wealth beyond known sources of his income. Ershad and Mosharraf are also facing about a dozen other corruption cases.

According to the charges in the present case, Firoz Kabir, former upazila chairman of Savar, his brother Jahangir Kabir and Borhanuddin of Messrs Three Star Poultry Farm took a loan of Tk 20,39,327 from Bangladesh Shilpa Bank in September 1979. The loan burden mounted to Tk 54.86 lakh by the middle of 1988.

Begum Nurunnahar Shelly, wife of Jahangir Kabir, directly applied to President Ershad in January 1990 seeking exemption of interest accrued on the

Former industries secretary Mosharraf Hossain, who was chairman of the BSB Board of Directors, forwarded the application to the Managing Director with a note that "the proposal was given to me by the Honourable President, put up in the next Board meeting." the charge said.

Debarred from seeking

election as a defaulter, waiving of interest enabled Firoz Kabir to contest and return in the

charge further said. Of the four other accused in the case, Jahangir Kabir and his wife Nurunnahar Shelly appeared in the court. Firoz Kabir is under detention while Borhanuddin failed to turn up.

subsequent upazila polls, the

The hearing of the case will resume on June 6. Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzak Khan and his assistant Masud Ahmed Talukdar ap-

peared for the prosecution.

## Business man stabbed to death

By Staff Correspondent A businessman was stabbed to death at West Dhanmondi in

the city late Sunday night. After closing his shop "Bismillah Store" the victim, Haji Nazimuddin Chowdhury. 47, was going back home Sunday night, when a group of armed people attacked him near his residence at West Dhanmondi, Road No 10 A.

him up and repeatedly stabbed him and escaped immediately. Fatally injured Nazimuddin was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead. The body was sent to the

hospital morgue for autopsy.

The attackers severely beat

atives said, a group of extortionists demanded money from Nazimuddin few days back but he refused to pay. Dhanmondi police said, they are yet to round up any one of the murderers till last

Meanwhile, the victim's rel-

Guha exhorted the 15,000 strong crowd to take a pledge to sacrifice their lives to save Tinbigha, and described the move as a 'conspiracy to give away Indian land to Bangladesh on the pretext of perpetual lease and international com-

mitments. He warned that a single bul let on the anti-Tinbigha activists would paralyse West Bengal and put an end to Jyoti

Earlier, he told newsmen that he had sent his reply to the showcause issued to him by the Forward Bloc chief, Ashok Ghosh, for allegedly violating party lines on the Tinbigha issue. However, he refused to divulge the contents of the letter saying that it would be a breach of party dis-

The Forward Bloc MP, Amar Tinbigha issuc.

cipline.

government has requested the union Home Ministry to send additional central forces to ensure law and order during the leasing out of the Tinbigha corridor to Bangladesh on June 26, official sources said Monday.

Ministry, the sources said. The state has decided to publish a booklet containing the governments' stand on

in hand.

#### Teachers and employees of Dhaka City College yesterday brought out a silent procession protesting assault on college teachers and demanding punishment to the persons —Star photo

## Tinbigha From Page 1 Col 8

Basus' 15 year regime in the

Rai Pradhan, addressing the gathering said that Jyoti Basu who was the worst critic of the centre's policies, had now become the yes man of the Congress-I government at the centre, particularly on the Meanwhile the West Bengal

· A letter to this effect had already been/sent to the Home

Tinbigha and the views expressed by political leaders at the recently held all party meeting. The booklet, which was being processed, was cx pected to be released by the end of this week, the sources added

# Bhasani Jatiya Sangsad held

Abbasuddin Academy, Bang-

From Page 1 Col 8

Both sides noted that some

Both sides also agreed to

Menon was speaking on the

passengers but in vain.

explained the landing saying that Karachi always gave permission to board passengers even on extra flight operations. They said earlier, permission had sometimes even been obtained after boarding the passengers. They explained the attitude of Karachi airport authorities this time as 'unbusi nessmen" like.