6 bills deferred

said that the payment of pension to the MPs when he or she was not in the office was 'irrelevant' and went against 'prestige' of the mem-

Nizami's deferred bill sought life imprisonment for willful desecration of the Quran of part of it and death sentence for defiling of the name of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) by words, either spoken or written, or by sings or visible representation, or by imputation or insinua-

Nizami's request to defer the bill came following the assurance of the State Minister for Law Aminul Islam that the government would consider the proposed law.

The State Minister remarked that the matter was important and sensitive adding the government required discussion on it."

The proposed resolution that were deferred to the next working private members' day include setting up of a separate laboratory for quality control of drugs, building a container termina) near Export Processing Zone in Savar and issuance of administrative order for the registration of exchanged property, on the basis of power of attorney, in favour of concerned people coming from India.

The resolutions deferred to the next private members day was moved respectively by Shakwat Hossain Bokul and Niamat Ullah Sabu of the BNP and Rafigul Islam of the Awami League.

The House was adjourned at 9-40 last nigh.

BSS adds: Acting Deputy Leader of the House M Majedul Haq told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the government was trying to reach electricity wherever possible to extend irrigation facilities so that the dependence of the farmers on the use of diesel was lessened.

Taking the floor in course of a debate on an adjournment motion moved by Awami League member Abul Kalam Azad for fixing the per litre price of diesel at Taka seven Majedul Haq who is in-charge of the Ministry of Agriculture said that the government was quite aware of the problems of the country's peasantry.

Majedul Hag said that the BNP government came to power with the support of the peasants who constitutes 85 per cent of the country's population. He said it would not be fair to blame that BNP was not serving the cause of the farm-

Referring to some comments of the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina on the issue Haq said that her party also had the experience of running the government.

There are some rules and procedures for fixing prices, he said adding that steps are being taken to keep the prices of agro-inputs within the reach of

Earlier, the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina called upon the Treasury bench not to reject the motion by mere strength of majority of voice as it related to the interest of the peasants.

She alleged that since coming to power the present government had increased the prices of fertilizers four times. She said that when the price of diesel was increased by the past autocratic regime, BNP along with other parties demanded withdrawal of the increased price. "Now they should not forget their commitment after going to power". she added.

She also said that the farmdiesel were reduced.

Earlier placing his adjournment motion, Abul Kalam Azad argued that unless the prices of agro-inputs were reduced the farmers would lost their interest to grow crops. He said that the peasants were not even getting their production cost by selling the products. If the situation could not be changed within six months the country's agro-production might fall to a miserable extend, he maintained.

Referring to the campaign being launched by the present government to attain self-sufficiency in food, Azad said to at tain this objective the government should reduce the prices of diesel which is the most important means of agro-production.

Azad appealed to all members of the House irrespective of parties to approve the motion for the greater national in-

Six members supported the motion of Azad and opined that the prices of diesel rpt should be reduced immediately for the interest of the poor peasants of the country. The members are Mohammad Rahmat Ali (Gazipur), Prof Rafigul Islam (Jessore) and Khan Tipu Sultan (Jessore) of Awami League and AM Riasat Ali (Satkhira), Mufti Maulana Abdus Sattar (Bagerhat) and Sheikh Ansar Ali of Jamaat.

Taking the floor Energy Minister Dr Khandkar Mosharraf liossain said that the BNP government was quite aware of the interest of the peasants

send-the motion of Azad to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Finance. But as the mover of the motion did not accept the proposal, it was given to vote and consequently the House rejected if in voice vote.

Tk 178 cr for small units

completed and the findings

AL member Md Abdul Awal from import tax stood at Taka 1338.68 crore, 45 per cent of crore for 1992-93.

question, Rahman clarified that the 1.8 billion US dollars foreign exchange reserve 'is not a big reserve for Bangladesh as 'we are going for a free market economy and according to the stipulations of the financial sector reform programme a reserve of a minimum of five months import requirements is needed and Bangladesh's monthly requirement stands at about 350 million dollars per month.

tion, Saifur Rahman informed the House that between 1990total amount of food aid 455 million dollars, commodity aid 981 million dollars and project aid totalled 2418 million dol-

received a total of 24 billion dollars since independence, of which, grants amounted to 47 per cent and loans 53 per cent. He said that the yearly repayment amounted to about 22 per cent of the total foreign

exchange earnings of the country. UNB adds: The Finance Minister refuted opposition contention that country's economy is in stagnation and

said it was reeling out of past disarray to gain momentum. Our economic position is so sound that it can't be called

stagnation in comparison with the world economic situation, he said, placing relevant indicators to improvement in the economic situation.

Saifur Rahman told Parliament that country's export growth was recorded 31 per

"Still, I'm not satisfied with the present position of our

the farmers.

ers would be inspired to increase their productions if the prices of agro-inputs including

The minister proposed to

From Page 1 Col 5 sent to the Board.

Replying to a question from Mian, the Minister said that during the first six months of this fiscal year the total amount of revenue collected the budget target of Taka 3265

Answering a supplementary

Replying to another ques-91 and 1992-93 November the

He added that the country

cent and import growth 19 per cent. Four per cent growth of GDP was achieved this year,

economy," the Minister, how ever, told the House. The government has undertaken plans for setting up new agro-based industries and reactivating the sick industrial units. He said Tk 200 crore would be disbursed as "term loan" by next June.

In reply to a supplementary from Advocate Devnath Shambhu (AL), Saifur Rahman said the government was striving to bring back discipline and accountability in the banking sector.

"I don't claim that I have succeeded in doing this. It's a very difficult job, but efforts are underway to remove all irregularities in the banking and financial sectors created over the years."

In reply to Abul Kalam Azad of Awamt League, Rahman told the House that Tk 1474.41 crore had been earmarked for disbursing as loan among farmers during 1992-93 by Bangladesh Agriculture Bank, Rajshahi Agriculture Development Bank, Bangladesh Rural Development Board and National Cooperative Banks.

Hepburn

From Page 1 Col 8 Geneva, said a relative who answered the door at the residence. She spoke on condition of anonymity.

The village was quiet on Thursday, and neighbours had tears in their eyes. One women recalled that she used to meet Hepburn as they both walked their dogs in the village

A small, black-bordered death announcement posted on the village notice board said her funeral service would be held in the village church on Sunday, followed immediately by burial in the local cemetery.

Hepburn epitomized highfashion elegance and inspired many designers with her beauty, but spent her last years traveling the globe in Jeans and T-shirts working for needy children as a goodwill U N am-

As a child, she herself received help from the agency after surviving the last winter of World War II in Hollan on a diet of mostly turnips.



opening ceremony of Nazrul Song Festival at Shilpakala Academy auditorium in city yesterday. -Star Photo

Nazrul song festival begins

The four-day national Nazrul song festival began here yesterday evening with much enthusiasm at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium, reports

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum inaugurated the festival.

Nazrul Academy, Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts, Hindol Sangit Academy, Agnibina Sangitayan, Dolon Chanpa Sangit Niketan, Surbani Lalitkala Academy, Ovhudaya and Udichi jointly organised the festival.

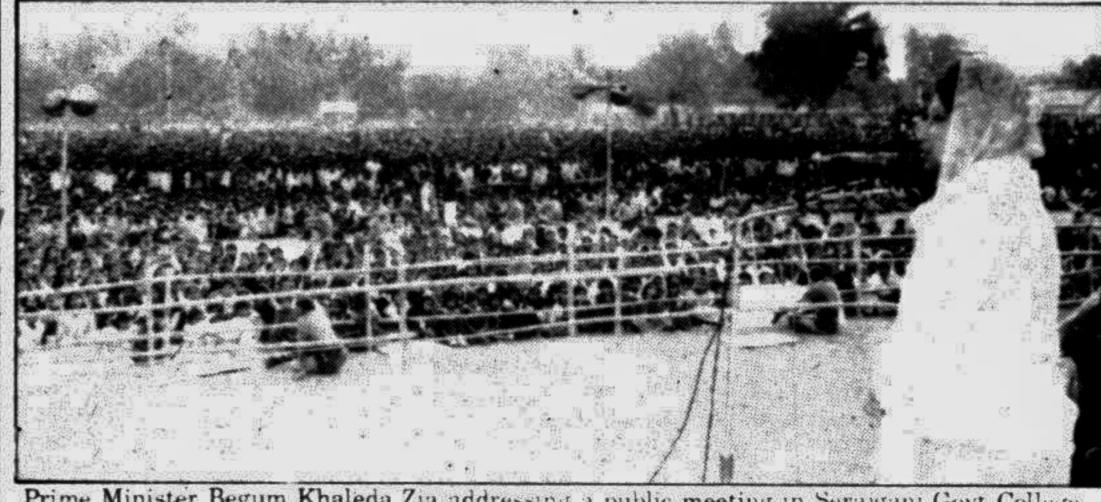
The four day programme was dedicated to five eminent Nazrul song artists Mohammad Kashem popular known as K Mallik, Abbasuddin Ahmed, Abdul Halim Choudhury, Kazi Sabbasachi Islam and Kazi Antruddha Islam.

Addressing the inaugural function Prof Jahanara appreciated endeavours of different cultural organisations to enrich the Nazrul songs.

She called upon the concerned personalities to uphold the works of the National Poet through extensive research.

The Convenor of the lestival Prof Rafiqui Islam in his address of welcome said, we want to stress a united efforts for the culture of the Nazrul

The Secretary of the Cultural Affairs Ministry Islamuddin Malik, folklorist Dr Ashraf Siddiqui and Director General of Shilpakala Academy Mobarrak Hossain Khan were present.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting in Serajganj Govt College maidan yesterday. - PID photo.

Police must come up to democratic aspirations of people: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the police officials to perform their responsibilities with dedication, honesty and sincerity for earning the confidence of the people and ensuring better services for them.

The police force had to work in an authoritarian atmosphere during the past autocratic regime, but now they have to work and behave in such a way which conforms with the democratic society and to suit the needs and ex pectations of the people, the Prime Minister told.

She was addressing the DIG's, AIG's and SI's at the International Conference Cen-

tre (ICC). Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Home Secretary Manzurul Karim, Inspector General of Police A S M Shahjahan and some senior police officials spoke on the occasion. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister K M

Rabbani was also present. The Prime Minister said the members of the police force will have to change their attitudes and discharge their duties amidst a lot of obstacles and problems for acquiring goodwill, confidence and respect of the people for whom

they are working. Begum Zia said the people's expectations to this democratic government were high and, therefore, the police must act to help fulfil the hopes and

aspirations of the people. The police must be friendly to the people, she said adding numerous social problems could be easily removed if the police force work with the help of the people.

She categorically said her government would not allow the negligence in duty by any official and directed them to abide by the government's instructions in ensuring people's

Referring to the enactment of the Anti-Terrorism Act, Begum Zia said it had contributed to lessen the terrorists and anti-social activities. She told the police officials to properly apply this law and to keep watch so that the innocent people are not harassed or repressed.

Some senior police officials, in their speeches, apprised the Prime Minister of their problems and put forward suggestions including the modernisation of the police force and enhancement of the number of police force.

PM: Election pledges

From Page 1 Col 7 country self-reliant.

About the low price of rice, the Prime Minister said the government has taken steps to ensure fair price of paddy for the farmers. The government has ordered to procure BR-11, a particular variety of paddy which was earlier restricted for government purchase, she

pointed out. Begum Zia emphasised on setting up of different industries including dairy farms, poultry, pisciculture farms and other small and cottage industries which can help earn foreign exchange and create em-

ployment opportunities. She called upon all to involve themselves in the development programmes of the government and mentioned the steps taken in education, women uplift and other sec-

Referring to the local demands, the Prime Minister said steps are being taken to set up sugar mills in the area. She assured that the work for Simla groin along river Jamuna will be taken up soon and the local 50-bed hospital will be further expanded.

Grants will be provided for improvement of mosques and madrashas of the area.

Referring to the ensuing pourashava polls, she called upon the people to elect the right people who will work for the welfare of commonman.

Presided over by Mirza Muraduzzaman MP, the meeting was also addressed by Forest, Environment and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Roushan Elahi MP, Kamruddin Yahya Khan Majlish, district BNP President Mokaddes Ali, General Secretary Humayun Islam Khan, pourashava chairman candidate TRM Nur-e-Alam Helal and other local leaders.

The Prime Minister, during her day-long visit to Serajganj, also addressed a public meeting organised at the Pilot High School ground in Shajadpur

Clinton takes office

From Page 1 Col 2 Also, Clinton was expected to announce a policy in the next few days that would lift the military's ban on homosexuals. The New York Times and USA Today reported Thursday. First he will order the military to stop asking recruits about their sexual orientation and discharging people found to be gay, and later this year he will sign an executive order lifting the ban, the newspapers said.

McLarty could not say when a Clinton economic package would be offered, "We'll move forward when the president is ready to make that decision," he said.

McLarty said meetings with national security and economic advisers were on tap for Clinton's first full day as President. Interviewed on NBC's

"Today" show, McLarty said he

expects Hillary Rodham Clinton to be involved on "a number of domestic issues. "She played an active role when Bill Clinton was governor of Arkansas," McLarty said.

Clinton joined Democrats for a late night of partying on Inauguration Day and passed up the sunrise jog he took his first few days in Washington. For the most part, the new

people in Washington - the Clinton people - were feeling their way along, and the government was in the hands of Bush administration holdovers and career civil servants.

New administrations are always slow to take oil.

"People keep bumping into

each other," said Dee Dee Myers, the president's press secretary, "At one point I got lost and walked past the Oval Office and saw the new gold drapes," she said, adding; "They're lovely."

Four years ago, George Bush admitted on his first day that he got lost wandering the corridors of the White House and he'd had eight years as vice president under his belt.

Three key Clinton Cabinet members — Defense Secretary Les Aspin, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen — won speedy Senate approval on Inauguration Day and are taking charge of their agencies. Further Senate confirmations were likely Thursday.

The first order of business Thursday promised to be fun for Clinton, who thrives on human contact. He was welcoming 2,500

members of the public to their new home on Pennsylvania Avenue - a symbol intended to show that he wants to run an open administration. He used to do the same thing in Little Rock, Ark, where he was inaugurated governor on five occasions. But Little Rock produced fewer eager well-wishers -maybe several hundred at The Clinton inauguration

team had to run a postcard lottery to pick people who would be invited for the White House walkthrough. Some iems for distribution of khas and non-arable land.

85,000 applied. Editorial on page - 4

Sick industries asked to apply for rehabilitation

The government has em powered the financing institutions and banks to resolve the hurdles of country's problemridden industries, reports UNB.

The entrepreneurs of inoperative but viable units can apply to the financing institutions for rehabilitation, credit rescheduling, fresh loans or exemption facility as well as consideration of other inconveniences, said an official announcement yesterday.

Such applications will be looked into from commercial point of view and good intentions of the entrepreneurs.

Rejected applicants may apply to the Review Committee constituted by the government for re-evaluation of their pro-

The committee will examine the management, market of the products, cost of production, profitability and risks and submit recommendations after review of the applications in monthly meetings.

Applications will have to be filed within two months of their rejection.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 8 the people about the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his role in liberating the country.

The children were being victimised by such conspiracies hatched by all the post-'75 regimes, she added.

Chaired by the Khelaghar Chairperson Prof Panna Kaiser, the function was also addressed by poetess Begum Sufia Kamal, Advocate Gaziul Huq, Acting Editor of the daily Sangbad Bazlur Rahman and leaders of the organisation including Makhduma Nargis Ratna, Kamal Chowdhury, Pronoy Saha and a Khelaghar member Aditi Swarup.

TV actor Asaduzzaman Noor recited from the poems of

On her arrival at the Shishu Academy premises, Hastna was accorded a warm reception by little boys and girls of Khe-

Hasina said, that it was matter of shame and regret that the children were being deprived of learning the true history of their independence and being forced to learn falsehood.

Earlier the Al. leader decorated Sufia Kamal with the 'Shahidullah Kaiser Memorial Award 1992" of the organisa-

Sufia Kamal was honoured with the award for her outstanding contribution in lit-

Dutch team From Page 1 Col 8 two components of the about 500 million dollar FAP, namely FAP 25 and FAP 20.

The FAP 25 aims at developing a flood model that involves a two lakh-guilder Dutch involvement and the FAP 20 aims at testing water control and management systems so that a safe environment can be ereated for agriculture, fishcries and integrate rural development. This part involves and 8.13 million guilder

Dutch contribution. The study of the IOV FAP evaluation team is a response to the extensive criticisms of the FAP by Bangladeshi advisory bodies, various scientific and newspaper reports, NGO reports and opinions expressed by donors.

The aim of the study is to examine whether the criticisms of the FAP necessitate a change in the Dutch stand-

point. The Dutch decision to support FAP 20 and FAP 25 is connected with expectations concerning the objectives of the FAP programme as a whole.

The team will interview Bangladesh authorities involved in implementing the FAP, Bangladesh academics, NGO representatives, representatives of donors involved in FAP, and experts working on other projects in Bangladesh. Discussions with the World Bank will also be

The final report of the team will be completed by March 1,1993.

Plan to fix up land ceiling in urban area

The government is planning to fix up ceiling of land in the urban area, State Minister for Land M. Kabir Hossain said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS. He said the government had

fixed up ceiling of land in the

rural area and now determina-

tion of land ceiling in the urban area was being discussed at the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Land Ministry. The State Minister said the government was evolving sys-

The Midnight File

Hundreds flee Kabul as fighting breaks out

KABUL, Jan 21: Afghan government forces and their radi cal opponents fought artiflery duels in Kabul today, forcing hundreds of people to flee their homes. But no reliable estimate was available from either side of the number of casual ties in the three days of fighting, which crupted after the government launched a sweep against the Hezb-i Islami party of hardline Mujahideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, reports

Ships collide off Indonesia

SINGAPORE, Jan 21: A supertanker collided with another ship off Indonesia Thursday, spilling oil that was set ablaze in the crash. Agents for the 260,000-ton Macrsk Navigator said its crew of 24 abandoned the supertanker after it collided with the Sanko Honour, an empty 47,344-ton tanker, erew members from both ships were reported unharmed, reports

Police bar relatives from visiting deportees

ROSH HANIKRA (Israel), Jan 21: Police on Thursday blocked dozens of relatives in buses loaded with bags of food from visiting more than 400 Palestinian deportees camped on a snowy hillside in Lebanon. Their trip to the Rosh Hanikra border station came as UN Envoy Chinmaya Gharckhan pursucd talks with Israeli leaders in an attempt to win compli ance with Security Council demands to return the exiles to

BJP move to evict douse Hindu-Muslim tensions From Page 1 Col 2

Many people who speak Bengali live in the Kalkaji suburb, but it is not known if they came to New Delhi from the Indian state of West Bengal or nearby Bangladesh, a predominantly Muslim nation.

Israel's occupied territories, reports AP.

When the protestors marched out of a park, police herded them into waiting buses, took them away and ar rested them for violating a police ban on marching to a mostly Muslim neighbourhood, Niraj Kumar, a senior police officer said in an interview. Police won't determine the exact number of people arrested until later.

"There'll be a communal clash if we allow them to go to the Muslim areas," Kumar said. AFP adds : Hindu militants are pressuring factors in

Bombay to sack Muslim employees, an Indian communist union said here Wednesday, and demanded immediate government intervention. The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) said the man-

agement of to major firms -

Mahindra and Mahindra, and Larsen and Toubro - were attacked by flindu thugs because they did not succumb to the demand. A CITU statement here said the Hindu militant group Shiv Sena and "other communal forces in Maharashtra are bla-

some units have succumbed to their blackmail.

tantly forcing the employers to

throw out minority workers

from the undertakings and

Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, 'battling to Jessore Chhatra League leader murdered

From Our Correspondent JESSORE, Jan 21: An activist of Awami League-backed Chhatra League (M-I), Manwar Hossain Liton was killed by his rivals at Karbala in the town at

10:30 am today. According to witnesses, a group of six youngmen led by Nawab Shaheen, an expelled Juba League leader, attacked Manwar with sharp weapons at a tea stall. They also cut the

Local people sent Liton to

the Jessore Sadar Hospital where doctors declared him Nawab Shaheen is wanted by the local police in a number

tendons of his both legs.

called day for a freeze on all domestic disputes.

The 71-year-old premier, on a tour of his home state of Andhra Pradesh, said a three to four year moratorium had to be declared on issues dividing the nation of 870 million, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Such a moratorium was necessary to ensure economic progress, he was quoted as saying at a public meeting in the town of Mahanadi after laying the cornerstone of an agricultural college. 10 shops gutted, 20

vehicles damaged as students go

on rampage From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Jan 21 : At least 10 shops were set ablaze and 20 vehicles were damaged this afternoon at Mirersharai, 30 kilometers off the city, when a group of unruly students went on rampage, wit-

nesses said. Police said the trouble began after a Chhatra League activist Shakhawat Hossain was stabbed by the supporters of the rival student group at Kamaldaha village of

Mircrsharai Thana.

Nurses From Page 1 Col 5 have left hospitals on the first

day of the strike as they were not getting any service. Meanwhile, leaders of the striking nurses Thursday held a meeting with high government officials to resolve the

Source said the government side indicated that some genuine demands of the nurses will be considered.

Shafiqul Islam, General Secretary of Diploma Student Nurses' Association (DSNA) said, "the talks were fruitful."

"We are expecting some of

our demands will be met by the government." "We will call off our indefinite strike if our just demands are met", Shafigul Islam said. The meeting continued for

two and a half hour at the con-

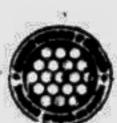
ference room of the Health

Ministry. The striking nurses also brought out a procession Thursday in Dhaka and staged a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in support of their

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