

Jahanara Imam addressing a Nirmul Body meeting in city yesterday

Star photo

700 delegates voice dissent against govt

Myanmar junta fails to hold constitutional convention

RANGOON, Feb 2: Myanmar military junta failed today to hold a formal session of its constitutional convention, reconvened on Monday amid tight security after a three week suspension, reports

Some of the 700 delegates privately voiced their dissent against the military government that brutally suppressed pro-democracy demonstrations in 1988 and refused to hand over power after losing elections in 1990.

The military portrays the convention as leading towards democracy but opponents see it as a way of keeping the generals in power for years to

There is no meeting today," a Myanmar official said at the convention site at Yangon's old-horse-racing course. "The delegates are taking rest or going out for sightseeing or shopping in the market."

The convention was abruptly halted three weeks

From Page 1 Col 8

the right to broadcast azan

(call for prayer) through loud-

The 10-point assurances

received from the Myanmar

side as listed by the Foreign

Minister also include return of

the homesteads and jobs of

the repatriated refugees, right

of the refugees for unre-

stricted travel in Rakhain

province and allowing the

boatmen or headmen living in

the camps to go and observe

the situation across the border.

as a "success", Rahman said

that designated and alternate

officials of the government

could also, from time to time.

visit the homesteads of the

repatriated refugees and in-

Muslim had also been ex-

empted from forced labour.

This is particularly important

because all other national en-

tities still have to provide

will be able to apply for the

Myanmar nationality card im-

mediately he said, and not only

that "the repatriated Myan-

mar citizens are getting the

nationality cards quickly and

in the meantime a number of

the repatriated refugees

carrying the nationality card

and the passport of Myanmar,

came to Bangladesh and took

the rest of their family mem-

Furthermore, the minister

said, from now on the Muslims

will not have to bow their

heads to show respect to the

national flag as per existing

January 29, the government

had handed over a list of

2,46,966 refugees to the

with critical bullet wounds.

Rahman added that upto

Salt-field

From Page 1 Col 5

bers and relatives home."

laws of Myanmar.

The repatriated refugees

across the border.

compulsory labour."

spect the transit camps

He noted that the Rakhain

Terming these assurances

speakers."

17,129 Rohingyas

ago when the junta's draft constitution met with opposition. The generals said the participants needed time to study proposals.

Monday's session lasted just

Extra troops have been deployed in Yangon to make sure there are no protests, a diplomat said on Monday. He said SLORC had also recently transferred to he provinces some university lecturers suspected of plotting demonstrations.

"We have a dark future to look forward to," a delegate who asked not to be identified

"Nobody can tell how long the convention will last but if you are waiting for democracy you will have to wait for a very long time," he said privately.

A delegate told Reuters on Monday: "The delegates and people are strongly opposed to the draft of the SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration cially clause Number six."

Hitler, Stalin, Kennedy in

Meghalaya, AFP reports.

Also in the race are a Mountbatten, a Stalin, a King George, a Truman, a Rockefeller, a Tony Curtis and as many as three Cham berlains, the Telegraph reported today from Shillong, capital of the mainly-Christian

Such famous names had been appropriated by the parents of the candidates, who in clude one named "I don't know" for reasons not known the daily informed its readers.

Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, who visits the picturesque state Wednesday on a pre-election tour, will be calling on voters to support Adolf Hitler R Marak and Frankenstein W Momin, who are nominees of his Congress party.

The list of candidates in the elections to the 60-member state assembly reads like a "Who's Who" of past dictators monarchs and statesmen, i

In one constituency, King George Rynniaw will be taking on Stalin Stephen.

One candidate explained why his parents had named him Britain-War: "I was born during the Second World War. Since we were then still under British rule, my folks named me Britain-War".

Commentary On the concluding day, a seminar on Spirit of

Regardless of the number of held during the morning sessuch passports issued to the sion while in the afternoon, refugees from Myanmar, the poets recited self-composed Review report would suggest that there is a racket working In the morning session at here arranging "spurious" 10 am Saifuddin Ahmed pretravel documents for people sented the key-note speech at who have the means and the the seminar presided by Kabir will to make a journey for the Chowdhury, Muhammed Nuru Huda, Professor Abu Bakar

According to one informed source here, such travel documents can be either complete forgeries or issued by the Department of Immigration on

with the situation, the Bangladesh government should indeed treat the Review report with concern. After all, a holder of a Bangladeshi passport in a foreign country is a responsibility of the country's diplomatic mission. When he (or she) runs foul of the local law, it is the mission that is obliged to sort out the prob-

When some fake Bangladeshi passports are known to be in circulation, immigration authorities in various countries become suspicious even of genuine ones, causing undue inconvenience to Bangladeshis

The Review report provides a break-down of Rohingyas employed by Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Gulf There are now as many as 200,000 in Saudi Arabia alone, some 20,000 in the UAE, 1,500-2,000 in Qatar and 3,000 to 5,000 in Jordan. The report puts the figure of Rohingyas now living in

Troops From Page 1 Col 5 tary staff, including five officers, and 224 civil police mon itors, including 19 officers. He said that, they are in Cambodia for a one year term which may

can be replaced. A seven member military unit is attached with UNICOM at the Kuwait-Iraq border while one member of the Army is with MINURSO in Western Sahara, five with UNOSOM in Somalia and an Army member

In Yugoslavia, he added, an 18 member Army team along with a six member Air Force team and 45 police monitors are attached with UNPROFOR. "We could not send any navy personnel as nothing has yet happened at sea, "he quipped," while providing the detailed breakdown.

Janata Tower Case

'Khas land changed hands to benefit Raushan'

The Special Judge's court trying former President HM Ershad for misuse of power and charges of corruption in 12.9.1989 the Janata Tower Case was told that government's khas land swiftly changed hands to eventually benefit former First Lady Begum Raushan Ershad, re-

ports BSS. Abdur Rahman Bhutyan, prosecution witness No 10, who continued his deposition for the second day yesterday, told the court that Mo Shahinoor Islam and two others who got allotment of khas land in Kawran Bazar later transferred it to Janata Publishers Limited. Shahinoor and 12 others - all accused in this case got allotment of 2 bighas and 2 kathas by declaring themselves as affected persons in a land acquisition.

The total land was divided into four plots - 49, 49a, 49b and 49c, according to the deposition. Shahinoor and two others, who were allotted 12 katha, having plot number 49, immediately after getting the land applied for its disposal. In less than two weeks it was first transferred to Janata Publishers and then through mutation Begum Raushan Ershad became its owner.

Former President Ershad. his wife Raushan Ershad, former minister MA Sattar, former Rajuk Chairman MM Rahmatullah and 16 others are accused in this case which began last year. Special Judge and Additional Session Judge Dhaka Ansaruddin Sikder is presiding over the court.

Bhuiyan, who is the Director Estate Rajuk in his deposition said the prayers for allotment of land to 13 recipients was initiated on 28.8.89 by an order of the then President Ershad (persons being affected by land acquisi tion). The accused got provisional approval from Rajuk on the following day, the PW said in his deposition conducted by Attorney General Aminul Haq.

From Page 1 Col 4

4957 of Sohag Paribahan re-

portedly met the accident

Both the driver and helper,

UNB from Bogra reports:

Six people were killed and 25

injured when a minibus turned

over on the Bogra-Shantahar

road at Teghair in Adamdighi

the driver and the helper of

the Bogra-bound bus from

Shantahar were among the

the tyre of a wheel of the pas-

senger-crammed bus punc-

identified as driver Ataur

Rahman 35, passengers Abdul

Latif, 30, Dr Ragbul Islam, 40,

Mozai Sardar, 30, and the

helper whose name could not

stated in critical condition,

were admitted to Adamdighi

Our DMCH Correspondent

adds: Two persons were killed

and another one was injured in

two road accidents in the capi-

mob held a minibus at

Shantinagar, set it on fire and

reportedly stabbed its driver

Alamgir Hossain Nantu at

not be identified died on the

spot and rickshaw passenger

Fatema Begum, 30, was injured

ling by the rickshaw was

knocked down by the bus and

dragged away several hundred

yards up to the Malibagh cross-

Fatema, 42, who was travel-

A rickshawpuller who could

around 5 pm yesterday.

in the accident.

Following a road accident a

The injured, seven of them

The accident occurred as

Five of the dead were

Witnesses and police said

when its driver lost control.

however, escaped unhurt.

thana yesterday.

be known.

thana hospital.

tal Tuesday.

The final approval of khas land to all 13 "affected per sons" were made on

Lease deed for the land between the beneficiaries and Rajuk was signed on 21.10.1989, PW said, showing the papers.

Bhutyan stated that one day after the lease deed (22.10.1989) Shahinoor and two others, pleading financial difficulties, prayed for disposal of their land. They applied to Rajuk for transfer of the said land (Plot No 49) to Janata Publishers and Rajuk accepted their prayer on 24.10.1989.

Court restrains Mizan, 5 other JP leaders from functioning

The court of the Second Assistant Judge, Dhaka yester day issued an ad-interim injunction against six office bearers of the Jatiya Party restraining them from functioning in their alleged respective posts until the disposal of the temporary injunction, reports

The Court issued the injunction against the Acting Chairman of Jativa Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and five other office bearers o the party following a declaration suit filed by plaintiff M Sajjad Hossain Joint Secretary General of Jatiya Party alleging violation of the party constitution by the six defendants.

The five other office bearers against whom the injunction has been issued restraining them from functioning in their alleged posts are Jatiya Party Acting Secretary General Hasanuddin Sarker, Secretary General Khaledur Rahman Tito and Presidium members Tajul Islam Chowdhury, Col (Retd) Zafar Imam and Saced Tareq.

Road accidents

in Jessore From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Feb 2: A dawn-

to-dusk hartal was observed here today demanding a fresh election cancelling the result of the Jessore Pourashava polls held Saturday. Shops, markets, educational

institutions and commercial organisations remained close during hartal hours. Bus, trucks and scooters were off the road. But rick

shaws and tri-vans were allowed to move. Two buses and four motor bikes were damaged in differ-

ent places of the town by the hartal activists. A public meeting was held

by the opposition parties at Town Hall maidan at 3 pm today. The opposition also called for a broom procession Wednesday as part of their next programme

Malaysia rom Page 1 Col 7

With Indian logistical back-up and expertise, Malaysia can go ahead to buy them at bargain prices," he said, declining to be named.

In remarks before signing the agreement with Pawar, Najib called the Malaysia-Indian memorandum a milestone in relations between the two countries.

"Through this agreement, hope India would assist Malaysia in areas such as military training, logistics support and defence industry," he said.

N'ganj: 50 hurt From Page 1 Col 7 College and Government

Women's College brought out a procession wielding brooms in support of the Nirmul body programme. The male supporters of the Nirmul body also brought a procession in the town on the same day. The processionists however dispersed after police assured them that there would be no "mahfil" or rally on the venue.

Later, the Jamaat-Shibir-Freedom Party activists began marching towards the venue blasting bombs and breaking the police barricades. Police then baton charged and teargased the processionists and later fired warning shots.

The fundamentalist activists fought a three-hour pitched battle with police from 3 pm.

During the clashes, police sub-inspector Abdul Bari assaulted Ingilab Staff photojournalist Shaffuddin Bitu and ordered his forces to throw him in a nearby ditch. Bitu was rescued by local reporters, witnesses said.

A local Jamaat e-Islami leader preferring anonymity said Saidee was in the town but did not disclose his where

abouts: He said that the mahfil

would now be today (Wednesday) Later, in the evening the

Nirmul Committee organised a rally at the Chashara Square with its local leader Giasuddin Birpratik in the chair. The committee leaders urged the people to resist the activities of 'communal and controversial element" Saidee across the

The rally was addressed, Rezvi and Shamim Osman.

The Midnight Eile

Rao rejects BJP demand for mid-term polls

MAU (UP), Feb 2: The Indian Prime Minister. PV Narasimha Rao today rejected the BJP demand for a midterm poll saying that his government was going to last the full term, addressing a rally for communal harmony in the town of Mao of eastern Uttar Pradesh, about 200 kms from Ayuthya. Rao said developments on the Ram Temple issue in order to grab power in the centre, reports PTI.

Major to meet Clinton Feb 24

LONDON, Feb 2: British Prime Minister John Major will meet US President Bill Clinton in Washington on February 24. government officials said today. They said problems holding up the GATT world trade talks, the situation in the former Yugoslavia and in Iraq and other bilateral and international issues would be discussed, reports Reuter.

British aid package to remain at £ 54.1m

Britain has indicated its bilateral aid package for Bangladesh during the current financial year will remain at last year's level of 54.1 million pound sterling.

A delegation of British Overseas Development Administration (ODA) during a meeting with officials here last week also held out the assurance of continued British assis tance for Bangladesh's development efforts.

Competent sources at the Economic Relations Division here told UNB that the ODA delegation during the talks put forward certain conditionalities for the maintenance of the level of British bilateral aid.

The conditionalities include continued progress with economic reforms, practical implementation of agreed poli-

Hartal observed

cies to promote economic activities in the private sector and effective utilization of available aid funds.

Both sides agreed that the future British aid should focus on such priority objectives of poverty alleviation, human resources development with particular emphasis on health and family planning, education with particular emphasis on health and family planning, education and a greater role for women in the development process.

Reforms in public administra tration, efficient use of energy, sustainable exploitation of natural resources and improved collection and use of revenues etc must have preponderance in the future programme of British assistance to Bang-

Matin to make statement on student's death

By Staff Correspondent

Choudhury yesterday agreed to make a statement in parliament 'soon', on the killing of a student near the New Model Degree College, after the opposition demanded one.

and demanded a statement from the Home Minister.

In the absence of the Home Minister at that moment. Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda took the floor and termed Selim's statement as untrue. "It has been seen during the last few days that Awami League is trying to shift responsibility to its own intraparty conflicts on the ruling BNP and the recent Chittagong

ment would "definitely" take steps against the killers, but asked how AL can pin the

within a day or two".

From Page 1 Col 7

on the procession yesterday the BCL activists dispersed but later locked in a clash with the attackers. Mosharrof was rushed to

the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors on duty declared him Autopsy of the body was

done at the Forensic Department of the medical college yesterday but the body was not handed over until filing of this report last night.

When contacted, both Mohammadpur and Dhanmondí police said that they were not aware of the death until last night but they said that they had heard about the clash

between two groups of students of New Model Degree College. Police said that no case was lodged with them and no ar-

rest was made yesterday The pro-Awami League Chhatra

League (M-I) yesterday con demned the killing of its lea-College.

conference yesterday after-

noon held at the Jatiya Press Club demanded arrest and trial of the killers. The BCL leader Manjurul Islam Asru read out the written statement in the conference. The BCL termed the killing

The BCL leaders also resented the police role.

Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Myanmar government and soon the list of 3,911 more refugees would be handed

The Myanmar side has approved 85,877 refugees from the lists so far and the government was repeatedly demanding approval of the rest of the names he said adding "as a result, it is learnt, the concerned Myanmar authorities have employed additional manpower."

Replying to a supplementary question, the minister noted that on Monday another 941 refugees of 204 families returned under UNHCR su pervision.

"If sending more than 18,000 refugees back home in such a short time is considered a failure, then I have nothing to say," he added in response to the opposition members' criticism that the government had failed in handling the refugee situation.

He pointed out that it took the refugees nine years to return to Afghanistan while those in Palestine Cambodia were yet to return.

To which, JSD member Shahjahan Siraj asked the minister how long it took the refugees to return Bangladesh from India

The minister replied that as Bangladesh became independent the refugees could return

Replying to another supplementary question, Rahman said that he would make a detailed statement, on the recent controversy relating to the statements of UNHCR and the US State Department and his recent visit to the United States, as per the schedule,

3 nor westers in Feb likely

By Staff Correspondent

Cold wave and nor'wester may lash the country this month, Meteorologists forecast

Tuesday. After analysing the available data, the Met office said that a mild cold wave would sweep the country during the first half of the month while two or three nor'westers may hit several districts including Pabna,

Bogra, Faridpur and Dhaka. There will be slight rainfall during the month, the forecast

Council) constitution, espe-

Clause six states that the military must have the leading role in Myanmar politics.

SLORC is the latest manifestation of the military oligarchy that has ruled Myanmar for 30 years. It assumed direct rule in 1988 after the crackdown.

A second official said the delegates had been broken into small groups to discuss the junta's "first basic principle", which is that no autonomy can be given to ethnic minorities who have been fighting the central govern ment for decades.

"They could take years to draft a constitution and the military will continue to con trol everything in this country for many more years," another

diplomat said The opposition National League for Democracy led by Aung San Suu Kyl won a land slide victory in the May 1990 election. She is under house arrest and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

Siddique and Mofidul Huo dis-

speech said that the rise of

terrorism and communalism

were the two main enemies

impeding the development of

that the trial of the anti-liber-

ation forces must be held in

this country with the inspira-

tion of poetry composed in the

More than two hundred po-

A large number of people

ets from different parts of the

country took part in the two-

including students attended

Mill workers in

Comilla threaten

rail-road block

From Our Correspondent

Halima Sutakal, a spinning mill

which was closed down eight

years ago, today staged a token

hunger strike in demand of

the reopening of the mill in

front of the Comilla Town Hall

About 150 workers of the

mill took part in the day-long

hunger strike and brought out

a protest procession in the

town and held a rally in front

the rally said that Prime

Minister Khaleda Zia and

Textiles Minister had earlier

promised to reopen the mill

but so far took no steps in this

The rally presided over by

labour leader Abdul Gafur

Majumdar threatened to put

barricade on the Dhaka-

Chittagong Highway and on the

rail road for an indefinite pe-

riod if the government did not

take steps within February 20

The rally was also ad-

dressed among others by

Mamtaj Mia, Kazi Abdur

Razzak, Shah Alam, A Matin,

Local Chhatra Dal President

Alauddin, BSD leader Liyakat

to reopen the mill.

and others.

Leaders of the workers in

COMILLA, Feb 2: Workers of

spirit of the Liberation War.

Saifuddin in his speech said

Kabir Chowdhury in his

cussed the topic.

Bangla poetry.

day poetry festival.

the festival.

today.

regard.

of the town hall.

University.

Poetry festival concludes By DU Correspondent

The seventh two-day National Poetry Festival '93 concluded yesterday (Tuesday) at the Teacher Student Centre (TSC) crossing of the Dhaka

From Page 1 Col 4 respondent. Liberation: Our Poetry' was

labour-scarce Gulf region.

the basis of false papers. Unless it is conversant

travelling abroad. Pakistan at 200,000.

be extended and the personnel

is attached with OMOUMOZ in Mozambique.

about an hour as the mob burnt the minibus and damaged several others.

Traffic in the city's busy

ing as her saree tied with the

road remained disrupted for

bumper of the vehicle.

Both the rickshaw passenger and the minibus driver were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital

In another accident, a 50year-old man Golap Gazi was killed when an autorickshaw knocked him down at around 7pm near Awlad Hossain

Market on the Airport Road. Gazi was rushed to the DMCH where doctors on duty declared him dead. Two bodies were sent to

the DMCH morgue for autopsy. Our Comilla Correspondent adds: One person was killed and 10 others were injured in two separate road accidents yesterday near Chouddagram. 14 kms away from Comilla

Ahmad Ali, 40, a passerby was killed in the spot as a tempoo ran over him on the Mia Bazar-Kashinagar road at 10 am yesterday.

In another incident near Chauddagram thana, 10 persons were injured as a Raipur bound passenger bus fell into a road side ditch at 2 pm.

All the injured persons admitted to the Chauddagram Hospital in critical condition. The injured persons are: Major (Retd) Rafiq 45, his wife Bulbul Akhtar Shirin, 36, their child Shuman, 12, Abdul Manan, 28, Ruhul Amin, 25, Din Islam, 32,

and Shahbuddin, 12. Both the drivers of the tempoo and the bus escaped abandoning their vehicles.

the ruling BNP candidates

were elected in six while the

main opposition party, the AL

of the country, no by-election

was held to the first JS. The

second parliament witnessed

four while the Third and the

Fourth saw one by-election

day's by-election in Mirpur

Syed Mohammad Mohsin has

gained the support of those

who know his father, SA

Khaleq, who claims to have

Talking to The Daily Star,

the candidate himself said that

he was hopeful about winning

the by-election mainly because

quit the Jatiya Party.

of his father's influence.

The BNP candidate in to-

In the parliamentary history

in five and the JP in four. .

Battle for Mirpur

From Page 1 Col 4

polls at 16. By-polls in the current parliament were held to 10 seats- four vacated by the BNP chief Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and four by Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, one each by Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed and Abdur Razzak elected from the now defunct BKSAL

The death of AL MP Elias Ahmed Chowdhury left the Madaripur-1 constituency vacant which was won by the AL. The first Speaker of the Fifth Parliament Abdur Rahman Biswas' becoming the

President of the republic ren-

dered the Bakerganj-5 seat va-

cant which the BNP retained. Later, the consecutive deaths of three AL MPs ren dered the JS seats in Rajbari-1, Mymensingh-3 and Bhola-4 vacant. All the seats were won back by AL candidates.

Today's by-election to the Dhaka-11 constituency, would be the 16th of its kind. In the last 15 by-polls under the present Parliament,

2296 murdered in 11 months Some 2296 incidents of murder and 474 raping were

committed in the country in 11 months since January last year, parliament was told yesterday, UNB reports.

among others, by Tamijuddin

Home Minister Abdul Matin

Taking the floor, Awami League member Sheikh Selim drew the attention of the chair to the fact that a BCL activist of New Model Degree College in Dhaka was killed by JCD activists in front of Road Number 32 in Dhanmondi on Tuesday

He said that the governblame on the government.

incident proyes that," he said.

After Matin Choudhury was briefed about the proceedings, he said "I will make a statement (about the New Model Degree College incident)

BCL worker

On DU Correspondent adds:

der at the New Model Degree The BCL (M-I) at a press

as the result of the continuation of the terror activities of the ruling party's student

The other injured persons were admitted to the Mohe-

shkhali Health Complex. According to local sources, the salt-field is now under the occupation of Baro Moheshkhali Bohumukhi Samabaí Samity and that an influential group led by former Union

Parishad Chairman Strajul

Islam was claiming ownership

of the field since long. They

said similar gunfight between

the two groups had left five

persons dead last year.

Police visited the spot after the incident. Nobody was, however, arrested in connection with the gunbattle. Editor: S. M. Ali

Meghalayan fray NEW DELHI, Feb 2: Adolf Hitler, Frankenstein and John Kennedy are among the 290 candidates in the fray for February 15 elections in the Northeastern Indian state of