## Top LDP leader says

# 'Japan must expand army's int'l role'

TOKYO, Feb 3: Japan must expand its army's international role if it hopes to become a leading member of the United Nations, a senior ruling party figure said today, reports

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, one of four top executives in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said he favoured adding a clause to the no-war constitution to allow troops taking part in UN peace- keeping operations to operate in war

"I feel the forces must be built up ... so that our policy is compatible with that of the UN Charter," Mitsuzuka told a news conference.

"We just need a new clause to article nine of the constitution stating that UN decisions take priority. That will allow us to take part in UN sanctioned operations."

In recent weeks Mitsuzuka, head of a power faction within the LDP, has emerged as an outspoken proponent of revising the US drafted 1947 "Peace Constitution" for the first time and freeing it to its article nine shackles.

That clause states that Japan renounces war and the threat or use of force to settle international disputes. It also restricts the military to defending Japanese borders.

The Japanese constitution was enacted in a state of confusion after World War Two

But it's time for us to think about how to modernise this document in the post- cold war era," he said. "We must be able to respond (to UN requests for peace-keepers) if and when Japan is invited to become a permanent member

Japanese troops were sent overseas last year for the first time since World War Two when they arrived in Cambodia as UN peacekeepers. More may be sent to Mozambique

Suggestions of a wider military role have alarmed some neighbours, who remember Japan's military occupation of much of China and Southeast

A peace-keeping law, take part in armed conflict.

# Media coup, says Hasina

From Page | Col 4 "Ragibul Huda entered and created a scene, shouted let

She said that even the Chief Election Commissioner was not provided with adequate security personnel to move and oversee the counting pro-

The CEC or any other official of the EC could not be contacted for comment.

The Awami League leaders including Sheikh Hasina said that people had spontaneously called a hartal in the city today but they refused to say immediately whether they support it or not.

People have called the hartal spontaneously to protest the media coup," the AL chief said evading queries from reporters but hastened to add:"We've to sit to decide"

An AL MP said that a dawn to-dusk hartal would be ob served in the city.

Meanwhile, AL workers last

night brought out processions in city calling a harfol. AL leader H & Ashequr

Rahman, a former MP, said that he along with three other party leaders were present at the Control Room set up at the **Dhaka District Deputy Commi**ssioner's office and witnessed election results coming in from different polling centres.

Rahman claimed that results came only from 16 centres, but "from 8.00 pm onwards, no results were received. When the BTV in its 10 pm bulletin announced the unofficial results quoting the UNB report," the AL leader said, "we asked the Election Commission officials about the BTV announcement.

"Impossible, it cannot be... results must be announced from here (control room.)" the AL leader claimed to have been told by the EC officials. Rahman said that the DC, the Returning Officer for the bypoll, was not present at the

control room. Then Rahman lodged a written complaint with the Election Commission. He showed the reporters the copy of the letter that was received by an Election Commission of-

## Govt regrets

From Page 1 Col 8 said police excess on those who went to the taffir mahfil had hurt the religious sentiment of the people.

He warned that the ruling party would be identified as an anti-Islamic force if it resorted to such action and imposed ban on religious functions.

The Jamaat leader said it was the responsibility of the administration to see that the tafsir mahfil was held without any obstruction by others.

The administration on Tuesday imposed Section 144 in and around the idgah maidan in Narayanganj, the venue of tassir mahsil, to ward off clash with Ghatak- Dalal Nirmul Committee which later called for a meeting at the same place and time.

and it was based on the orders of the commander of the (US) occupation forces," said

of the Security Council."

Asia before and during the war.

passed last year after months of bitter debate, says troops must not go to trouble spots where a ceasefire accord is still pending, arfd must not The LDP sparked national

debate when it announced recently it would set up a parliamentary panel to look into constitutional revision. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, wary of negative public reaction, ordered pro-revisionist members of his cabinet last week not to broach the delicate subject.

# The AL leaders also claimed

that the Presiding Officer at the Shahidullah Adarsha Bid me do my job." yapith polling centre was missing with the result sheet. The official, who they identified as Faiz, had not ob-

> They alleged that the ruling BNP leaders and ministers violated the election rules.

agents, they said.

tained the signatures of the Ai.

Abdul Manan, a central leader, said that State Minister for Relief Lutfor Rahman Khan had led a procession at Gabtali Tuesday afternoon and State Minister for Textiles Ma (Retd) M A Mannan distributed clothes among the poor electorates at Balurghat at 11:30 Tuesday night as part of their electioneering.

The Prime Minister herself stopped so low that she even threatened Hashem Chairman of Harirumpur with dire consequences, " the AL leaders

said almost in a chorus. The PM spoke publicly against Hashem chairman who is so loved and revered by people in his area," said an Al.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP claimed that he and Mesbahuddin MP saw a white microbus, which he said is owned by BNP MP Hamidullah "illegally" ferrying people to various polling centres.

"It is now obvious that the Prime Minister cancelled her very first visit to France in or der to prejudice the Mirpur election in her favour," Chowdhury, the Party's International Affairs Secretary said.

Mannan claimed that at least 400 passes were issued to the BNP men for entry into polling booths instead of the stipulated 70.

"Any Tom, Dick and Harry of the Chhatra Dal or Jubo Dal had a pass while no body other than the MPs or central working committee leaders got it from our party."

## BJP asks centre to review all decisions on Ayodhya

GONDA, Feb 3: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today urged the centre to review all decisions pertaining to Ayodhya, including singlepoint reference to the Supreme Court taken after the

December six incidents, reports PTI. Describing the decisions as hasty, senior party leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee told newspersons here that the single-point reference to the Apex Court on whether a temple existed prior to the Babri Mosque had

no meaning after the demoli-

tion of the disputed structure. He said evidence found at the disputed site showed existence of a temple before the mosque.

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Aranyak staged 'Pathor' at Shilpakala Academy auditorium yesterday in observance of its 20th founding anniversary. - Star photo

# Scores injured in Mirpur

From Page 1 Col 5 Mirpur roads.

According to the Mirpur dwellers, hundreds of gunshots were also heard until 10pm Wednesday. Police, however, denied having fired shots.

Witnesses said, police and BDR men chased the processionists who countered by throwing stones at the law enforcing personnel. The marchers also blasted a large number of crackers. The clashes continued for nearly two hours in the area between Mirpur Sections 10 and 11, they added.

Agitated people put barricades on the road at Mirpur Sections 10 and 11 and burnt hundreds of timbers which were kept for reconstruction

Local Awami League leaders alleged that BNP activists also hurled crackers and fired on the procession.

Of the injured Anwar llossain, 22, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospitals (DMCH) with bullet

Among the injured were, Khayerul Alam, Sayedul Islam, Abdus Samad, Mohammad Kamal and Mazharul Islam whose identity could not be known immediately.

Transports, came to a halt in the Mirpur areas for several hours owing to the clashes.

Mirpur police said none was armet Chaka-11 Jatiya Sangsad constituency fell vacant on November 24, last year following the death of the BNP

MP Harun-ur-Rashid Mollah. The late BNP MP won by a margin of 2136 votes against

AL's Dr Kamal Hossain. Another 16 candidates, including one from the Jatiya

Party, were also in the fray. The by-election to the Dhaka-11 seat, covering the Mirpur thana and Harirampur of Uttara thana, was crucial for the both the political organisations in the backdrop of the present political situation in the country.

Balloting was marked by enthusiasm and discipline, barring a few attempts in false voting, impersonation and skirmishes among the party workers.

Strict law and order was maintained during the voting hours thanks to the elaborate security measures drawn by the Election Commission.

The EC deployed heavy contingent of police and ansars at the 117 polling centres. Twenty five police men and ansars were posted at each of the centres while 600 paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) men were on duty for smooth holding of the polls.

According to the election officials and private observers, the Wednesday's by-election was held in peace and in an impartial manner.

The Daily Star correspondents covering the parliamentary be-election found large turn out and peaceful polling at all the centres visited.

Enthusiastic Mirpur electorates were seen waiting in long queues at different centres even before the balloting began at 7am. Participation by the female

voters was noteworthy. Workers of both the BNP and the AL were seen telling how to vote.

For the Mirpur dwellers, Wednesday was a government holiday. The constituency wore a festive look. Most of the shops and offices and banks remained closed.

In most centres, half the votes were cast much before the noon, presiding officials reported.

However, tension ran high among party activists at some polling stations.

Mobile courts fined nine people, including a woman,

while trying to cast false votes. At Mirpur Shaheed Smriti High School, BNP and AL workers demolished each others' campaign sheds at about

One cracker was set off and

a gunshot was heard outside the centres. Police and BDR men swang into action and batoncharged the crowd. At Kazipara Shah Ali High School, the BNP and the AL workers were locked in a half

which was subsided after the high ups intervened. Besides, frequent visits by a large number of MPs, senior leaders of both the parties and the accompanying workers had hampered the normal polling.

hour shouting at each other

according to the observers. At 10 am in the morning, the presiding officers of the National Primary School centre told the correspondent of The Daily Star that voters' turn out was excellent and peace prevailed.

Justice KM Sobhan, leading an election observers team. was visiting

the centre at 10 am. He commented that polling was being held smoothly apart from some efforts of impersonation.

"It is very good that I have been able to some here and vote freely," said a housewife Tahmina Ahmed.

Tension gripped the AL and

## Processionists in Jessore demand fresh poura polls

From Our Correspondent JESSORE, Feb 3: The female activists of the opposition political parties brought out a broom-procession today in the town protesting alleged rigging in the local pourashava

The procession brought out from the Town Hall ground paraded different streets of the town and ended in front of the Chitra Cinema Hall.

A brief rally after the procession demanded a fresh election.

Meanwhile, another report from Jessore adds: One Siddiqur Rahman (30), was stabbed to death by a group of armed miscreants today at 8.30 am at Sardarpara under Chowgachha thana.

The cause of murder could not be known immediately. According to witnesses, the victim was attacked by the armed hoodlums while he was selling date juice in the area.

The attackers were reportedly activists of BNP and were wanted in several police cases.

### Five seats kept reserved in domestic flights

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that five seats were kept reserved, one each for army, navy and air force and two for government, on every domestic flight of the Biman Bangladesh Airlines, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from BNP member Anwarul Huq Chowdhury the minister said that besides four seats were kept reserved for UNHCR on both ways of Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Cox's Bazar flights and one scat for the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce on Dhaka-Chittagong-Dhaka flights.

No seats are kept reserved for any organisation on international flights, he said. Mannan said that if ticket

was not bought against the reserved seats 18 hours before the scheduled time of departure of the flight, then it is released for the public.

## BNP workers at about 11-30 am near the Nun Free Primary

School at Section 12. The bamboo and tin roof school was crammed with the voters who lined up for hours. Officials at the centre acknowledged that the centre was a bit small for the more than seven thousand listed

BNP workers were heard complaining to visiting Mayor Mirza Abbas MP about influence ing the voters by the rival party supporters.

"Do not escalate tension here .... if there is any problem. let the polling staff take care of those," Abbas was heard advising the activists.

Al. MP Abdul Kader Siddiqui was sitting near a centre at Bagbari Primary School at about 2 pm. Talking to The Daily Star,

Siddiqui said that although the

balloting was being done

smoothly, there were reports of BNP workers' influencing the voters. James F Cole, Political Cou nsellor and Second Secretary of US Embassy, was found

visiting Centre-68 not far from

the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial, west of Mirpur. Giving his reaction on the parliamentary by-election, Cole said he observed that voters participation was high and polling arrangements satisfac-

However, Cole mentioned some problems" at Shaheed Smriti High School centre.

At the Shaheed Smritt School centre, Aklima and Jahanara were seen crying aloud after being caught by the officials for trying to cast false

But, there were many who said their ballots were cast by some others.

### Fake voters From Page 1 Col 3 voter list," he complained.

The offenders, most of whom confessed allegiance to either the Awami League or the BNP, were fined from Tk 50 to Tk 500, in default, they would have to face one-tothree-day's detention according to the court verdict.

am a BNP supporter, Alamgir claimed, "and I don't see anything wrong in casting a false votel"

"I came to cast a vote for the Awami League candidate, Emdadullah, a boy of 16 confessed, "I came from Bogra and now living in Mirpur temporarily.

"A friend of mine influenced me to vote here," he added. Alamgir and Emdadullah were fined 100 taka each, or in default one day's detention each.

Dulu (25), a housemaid hailing from Savar was weeping at the court in Mirpur Section No 10. "My master brought me to this mess," the weeping maid confessed, and added she was advised to cast a vote for a particular candi date, "I did not know anything about voting ... now I don't have Taka 50 to get myself released, I don't known what will happen to me."

Among the arrested persons, Md Babul (22) was fined Tk 500. "I live in Gulistan," he confessed, I was arrested from polling centre Number 48 at Mirpur Section 6." The authorities also de-

tained a number of false voters and detained them for the whole day. Four such persons were seen locked in a room of Nun Free Primary School polling centre while five others were locked in a room of Dr M Shahidullah Adarsha Bidyalay centre at Pallabi. Two woman voters were

detained in the polling centre of Shahid Smriti Bidyalay. Many of these voters were also detained for not being able to provide their voter's number or family information, they claimed.

# rare birds

BEIJING, Feb 3: Beijing agency said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Zhoung Gang and his girl friend Ma Dongmei were given five and three years in prison respectively for "killing and devouring" three yellow-breasted Tragopans listed in China as a protected species. "Zhoung and Ma stole the

the yellow-breasted Tragopans on the night of April 7 (1992). They beat the birds into unconsciousness and then took them away in a bag," Xinhua said.

dered the birds at Ma's house and cooked the birds later the same night. The agency said zookeep ers found it extremely diffi cult to raise yellow- breasted

protuberances on the head. leaders held

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 3: Police arrested two student leaders of Jatiya Party-backed Sangrami Chhatra Samaj under the Anti-Terrorism Act from Dargah area in Shahjadpur thana Tuesday midnight, reports

Apollo and Shah Alam, 1st year BA students of Shahjadpur Government College, were arrested on charge of assaulting

Chhatra Dal, on January 31 elected Poura Chairman of Shahjadpur Hasibur Rahman

The two students were sent to jail as their bail prayer was

When contacted, JP leader Swapan said the girl had told him that she didn't file any FIR. He termed the charge

### Young girl killed in road mishap Our DMCH

Correspondent

A young girl was killed and her brother injured when a speeding truck hit the rickshaw they were riding on the Biswa Road near Tarabo yes-

rickshaw from behind seriously injuring Amena Begum 14, and her brother Habibur Rahman, 20. Amena Begum was declared

first-aid.

told Reuters.

"It would not be fair now to impose upon the Bosnian people a peace agreement which would prejudice their interest and benefit the adversary," he was quoted as saying.

# Zookeeper grills

police have jailed a former zookeeper and his girlfriend for stealing and eating three extremely rare birds from the city zoo, Xinhua news

key of the courtyard holding

identified by fleshy, horn like 2 Chhatra Samaj

in Sirajganj

a female activist of JCD. Police said the accused assaulted Aklima Khandakar Supti, a leader of Jtivatabadi while passing by a victory procession of JP leader and newly

rejected. "baseless"

According to witnesses, the

Dhaka-bound truck struck the

dead on arrival at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital at

around 8 pm, while her

brother was released after

### OIC asks UN

From Page 1 Col 8

official of the 51-nation group

Officials quoted the Al Chabid letter as asking the council members to reject the accord "which in some of its aspects offers a reward to the aggressor and legitimises the odious policy of ethnic cleans-

The two culprits mur

tragopans, brightly-coloured relatives of the pheasant

### he added. Biman incurs Tk 6 cr loss in Nagoya flights

incurred a loss of Taka six erore by operating 25 flights to and from Nagoya, the second destination of the airlines in Japan, since inauguration of the new route on December 31 last year, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan told the Jatiya

Replying to a question from Treasury Bench member Sardar Sakawat Hossain Bakul, the State Minister said that Biman carried seven thousand nine hundred thirty nine passengers in its Nagoya flights. To another question from

Awami League member

Mohammad Khademul Islam.

the State Minister said that

government had a plan to op-

erate short take-off and land-

Sangsad today.

### ing (STOL) aircraft service to and from Thakurgaon airport. Five kidnapped tribals rescued

CHITTAGONG, Feb 3: Members of Bangladesh Security Forces today rescued five kidnapped tribals from Milonkarabari bazar of Dighinala thana under Khagrachari Hill District, reports BSS.

kidnapped seven tribals at gunpoint when they went to collect wood at Alamgir Tilla vesterday. Two of them were released by the insurgents and they

According to official sources

here, the tribal insurgents

be released if they pay a ransom of Taka 4,000. The two freed persons informed the members of the security forces of the incident and later the security forces from several camps attacked the surroundings of the

were told that the rest would

Alamgir Tilla Finding no alternative, the tribal insurgents fled away, leaving behind the five kidnapped persons. The rescued were identified as Mongla Tripura (35), Khisha Tripura (29), Mashar Tripura (28) Kittinanjan Tripura (25) and Shantu Tripura (25).

The outlawed Shantibahini is collecting tolls and kidnapping tribals and non-tribals despite fire till March 31 next following the talks between government and Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti, an apex body of the tribal insurgents.

# The Midnight File

## Benazir expecting third child by caesarean section

LONDON, Feb 3: Pakistan Opposition Leader Benazir Bhutto was to have her third child delivered by caesarcan section in a London Hospital on Wednesday, her medical adviser said. Professor Naseer Shaikh said experts at the hospi tal had decided that Bhutto must have the baby on Wednesday carlier than her original due date of February 24, because of severe pain from gallstones. The operation was expected to take place at 1800 GMT. The decision to perform an earlier delivery has been taken in view of the threatening biliary and pancreatic complications because of gallbladder stones and severe pain. The biliary problem will be tackled within a few weeks," the Professor said in a statement, reports Reuter.

## **Explosions hit London** rail systems

LONDON, Feb 3: Two explosions hit London rail systems Wednesday, but no one was reported injured. A morning rush-hour bomb went off in a surface train in south London after a telephoned warning, British Transport police said. A second explosion, in the capital's subway system, occurred in the afternoon at South Kensington after the station had been cleared following a warning, reports AP.

## Transport strike cripples Belgrade

BELORADE, Feb 3: About 1,000 Belgrade trolley drivers joined a transport strike Wednesday that brought traffic in the Yugoslav capital to the verge of collapse on its second day. In freezing weather, thousands of people waited in vain at bus stops, as some 5,000 transport workers demanded doubling of their wages, which average the equivalent of dirs 50 a month, reports AP.

# Janata Tower case

From Page 1 Col 4 The witness said although has provision for transfer. The the rules and conditions relating to transfer of khas land conditions included 30 days were revised on 22.10.1989, prior notice and construction of first floor as per approved Rajuk minutes book recorded plan. He told the court that it on 17.10.1989 as a miscellaplot (49) on which Janata Bhuyian then narrated one Tower was built remained vaafter another how the four cant when it was first transplots (49, 49a, 49b and 49c ferred to Janata Publishers whose combined area being 2 Limited. Raushan Ara Begum bigha l kathal were allotted alias Begum Raushan Ershad among 13 persons, it was re-Chairman of Janata Publishers vealed during the deposition Limited, eventually became the that the allotment letters for owner of the plot through mu all the four plots were made on tation only three days after the the same date and that the first transfer was made.

payment by the parties for the When asked how the imland price also made on a parpediments were overcome, the ticular day (18.9.1989). The witness said that necessary possession of all the plots were measures in this regard were delivered on the following day. taken on 22.10.1989 (a day af-Bhuyian, who is the ter the lease deed was signed Director Estate, Rajuk, anbetween the beneficiary of Plot swered in the affirmative when No 49-Shahinoor and two othasked by Attorney General as ers and Rajuk) through adopto who had signed the allottion of a resolution stating that ment letters. He, however, allottees of khas land are exmentioned that whatever he empted from constructing did including issuing the alstructure on the plot. Howlotment letters was at the diever, other terms and conrective of Rajuk Chairman ditions (like 30 days prior Rahmatullah. At this, a number notice) remained unchanged. of defence lawyers stood up

### and questioned witness's competence to make the deposi-The judge, however, ignored their complaints.

The witness further said all files relating to land allotment Biman Bangladesh Airlines were maintained by Rajuk Chairman. He also mentioned that these files had no move-611 more

> Rohingyas go home From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Feb 3:

gees of 135 families, returned home today under UNHCR supervision. The refugees were repatriated from the Rangikhali and Nayapara transit camps. With this, the total number of repatriated Rohingyas stand at 18,721 out of some 2.65 lakh

Another 611 Rohingya refu-

Bandarban districts. Relief and Rehabilitation Department officials along with UNHCR representatives were present on the bank of the River Naaf during the repatria-

sheltered in Cox's Bazar and

tion at around 3 pm. This was the 22nd batch of returnees since the repatriation process began late last year, officials said adding that a total of about 15,000 more refugees were awaiting repa-

### UNHCR team From Page 1 Col 7

triation in the transit camps.

But suddenly the Dhaka mission of UNIICR had claimed that out of 932 families, 42 had been forced to re turn to Myanmar. The UNHCR had by passed the principles set in the understanding reached on October 8 and interviewed the refugees sepa

ferred to the statements of UNHCR and the US State Department on Rohingva refugee repatriation and said in reply to a letter from UNHCR he informed her that Bangladesh was firm to its commitment towards voluntary repatriation and made it clear that none would be sent back against one's will.

UNHCR from the repatriation had created complexities. The Foreign Minister said he had visited the United States to remove misunderstanding with UNHCR and the United States and after talks the US authorities understood our viewpoints and misunderstandings were removed

# The Foreign Minister re-

He said withdrawal of