Ershad's letter a conspiratorial move: Matin

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury informed parliament yesterday (Sunday) that police had gathered some important information from Nurul Islam Milon, International Affairs Secretary of Jatiya Party, reports UNB.

Customs officials at Zia International Airport on February 10 (Wednesday) recovered from Milon a letter. allegedly written by deposed president Ershad to a head of

He was accompanying JP acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury who left for Saudi Arabia on the day to perform Omrah Haj. Milon was offloaded and arrested after the recovery of the letter from

The Home Minister termed the letter 'a conspiratorial move' against the Bangladesh government by a man (Ershad) who, he said, is hated by the people and was put in jail for killing democracy and introducing a corrupt regime in the country.

The letter was being smuggled out of the country in utter violation of all international norms, Matin said, adding that the government is contemplating legal action in this matter.

"None is above law. Maudud Saheb, being a barrister, will not be able to protect Mizan Chowdhury from the hands of law. Ershad was tried and given punishment and a similar process will be adopted in this case also."

The Home Minister said

that many important information was gathered by police from Milon after interrogation. Milon was under interrogation of police, he added, assuring the House that the government will unveil the conspiracy to

He said that what Barrister Maudud stated in the House about the incident was not based on fact.

Mizan Chowdhury was humiliated at the airport on February 10 "in the name of search by

He said Mizan Chowdhury got permission from the Supreme Court to leave the country to perform Omrah but faced humiliation and discourteous treatment from the customs officials.

"It does not look nice if such a behaviour is meted out to an elderly member of this rating the political background of Mizan Chowdhury, who was elected to parliament eight

Referring to the letter. Maudud said an "unsigned letter" was recovered from the baggage of Nurul Islam Milon but it did not contain any seditious matter.

Hospital for treatment.

Bangladesh's UN mission.

Usually, a diplomat serves at a

station for three years at a

tioned posts of Director

General. From September 27

to October 15, he was paid

from the Foreign Ministry's

Two diplomats

the Government can ask an official to retire after 25 years of

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, the official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry. refused to talk when contacted by phone last night.

away from the country when the orders were issued. The minister left Dhaka yesterday morning on visits to Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

cently the country's Ambaseader to Italy and Permanent Representative to a number of Rome based world bodies, returned home Friday and was supposed to join as Additional Foreign Secretary, Rahman was

recently promoted to the rank. called back to headquarters last September, only 10 months after he had been sent to New York as the Deputy

MOU on shipping from Page 1 Col 5

Among others who attended the signing ceremony were Malaysia's Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Minister of International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz and Bangladesh's Communications Minister Col. (Rtd) Oli Ahmed, Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan and other high officials of the two countries.

Prior to the signing of MOU Col (Retd) Shahabuddin Ahmed, Chairman, Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) briefed the Malaysian Premier on the possibilities of foreign investment and availability of facilities at the CEPZ.

The signing over, the Malaysian Premier accompanied by his delegation members, Bangladesh Ministers and officials went inside CEPZ and visited a shoe and a fishing equipment manufacturing fac-

While Mahathir was visiting Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) his wife Dr. Sitt Hasmeh went on a separate programme to see Chittagong Eye Infirmary Hospital at Pahartali here.

At 12-30 pm Mahathir and his wife along with some of his delegation members flew to Kaptai, a hilly lake town, by helicopters to have a glimpse of the scenic beauty. The Malaysian Premier also hosted a luncheon in Kaptai.

After returning from Kaptai Mahathir flew for Pakistan at 3-24 pm by special flight from Chittagong airport. Mahathir arrived in Chittagong airport today at 10-30 am and reached at Chittagong Export Proc-

essing Zone at 11 am. Talking to this correspondent, the Managing Director of Malaysian Shipping Corporation said, "Through the signing of MOU we want to develop

relation and cooperation with Bangladesh on shipping services." the signing of MOU came fol-

The Managing Director said lowing the bilateral maritime agreement which paved the way for maritime activities and

cooperation. Meanwhile, the Malaysian trade delegation which arrived here with their Prime Minister visited Chiftagong Chamber and held a discussion with Chamber members.

the people in due course.

Earlier rising on a point of order, Jatiya Party leader Maudud Ahmed described how customs officials.

parliament," Maudud said, nar-

The Jatiya Party leader alleged that police tortured Milon inhumanly in the name of interrogation and said that he (Milon) was taken to CMH and later to Suhrawardy

From Page 1 Col 6 Permanent Representative at

his or her service.

Since then, he has been without any assignment leading to a situation that has deprived him of his salary for the The Foreign Minister was last four months as salary is disbursed against nine sanc-

Waltur Rahman until re-

contingency funds. According to informed sources. Waliur Rahman is learnt to have been shown the door because of his alleged involvement in a scandal related to one of the Italian-funded Bangladesh projects. The Italian press gave wide public-Mohiuddin Ahmed was ity to the issue, the sources

> But Mohiuddin Ahmed's case appears to be one of sheer victimisation, the sources indicated.

Ahmed was a victim under the fallen regime of General Ershad which had him stay in the country for six years. Not only was he denied an assignment abroad, but was also posted outside the Ministry. For three years, he served as Joint Secretary in the ministries of agriculture and in-

dustries. According to some sources close to these two fallen bureaucrats, they might go for arbitration in the Administrative Tribunal.

Farm labourers

From Page 1 Col 5 demands and assuring that he would raise the matter in par-

Demands of the union include round-the-year work for the farm labourers at a salary equivalent to 4 kg rice, loan, ration at the rate enjoyed by defence forces and distribution of khas land among them.

A delegation comprising Bimal Biswas, Saiful Haq, Prof Sattar, Anwar Hossain and Nasiruddin Nasu went to Sangsad Bhaban and submitted the memo to the Speaker, the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition at about 4.30 pm.

From Page 1 Col 4

signed between the government and the SKOP on December 21, 1991 on the five-point charter of demands submitted by it.

The MOU envisaged that the national minimum wages would be announced by two months and the recommendation of wages commission by four months from the date of signing the MOU, they added.

After the singing of the MOU, the SKOP leaders said, an agreement on the 10-point demand was signed between the government and the SKOP on July 6, 1992 on the eve of observing 48-hour hartal programme on July 7 and 8 last.

SKOP also called off a 48hour strike scheduled for November 29-30 last following a series of meetings where the government had assured of implementing the agreement, the leaders said.

'Rich polluters should compensate poor sufferers'

By Staff Correspondent The rich polluters of the global environment should

compensate the poor sufferers. This demand was made at a seminar on Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Dhaka Sunday. A country like Bangladesh

contributes very little to the

global environment pollution

but faces a grave threat from it, the scientists and environment activists said. Jointly organised by the Bangladesh centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and GEF, the day-long seminar at the Sheraton Hotel was

participated by 40 scientists and environmental crusaders. GEF is a body co-manage by World Bank, UN Development Programme and UN Environment Programme and finances different environment projects

in developing countries. Administrator of the GEF Ian Johnson, Climate Network Europe representative Ms Annie Roncerel, Director BCAS Dr. Atiq Rahman, Open University Vice-Chancellor Dr Shamser, Ali Abdullah Al Muti Sarfuddin were present among others at the seminar chaired by Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forest

The speakers said that even after the GEF had sanctioned nearly 700 million dollars since 1991 to some 100 projects on global warming, biodiversity and international water nothing was allocated for Bangladesh.

They said that the govern ment should move faster to have funds for such projects.

Some of the speakers said that the world was now divided into two parts in terms of environment— the developed North and the developing South- and that the latter had to carry the pollution of of the former.

Johnson said that Bangladesh's Sundarban mangrove could effectively be useful for a better ecological system if it was brought under a project for conservation.

He said that the GEF was a pilot project aimed at bridging the gap between North and

Johnson also assured that Bangladesh would get some projects on environment in near luture.

EC decision

From Page 1 Col 8 concerned that all the ballots had lawfully been preserved and it would recount votes of all the 117 centers today af-

ternoon. The BNP Joint Secretary General and Works Minister Rafigul Islam Miah while expressing his reaction over the EC decision said, The BNP believes in the transparency of the government activities'.

The BNP leader, however, expressed concern over the possibility of democracy loving people's assuming that the EC's decision to recount the ballots was a consequence of the AL pressure on it by means of observing continued hartal

at Mirpur. 'It would be dangerous for democracy-if the people start believing that an independent institution like the Election Commission has bowed to the pressure mounted on it by a

political party. According to the prior announcement of the Election Commission, the BNP candidate won the Mirpur by-elec-

Tofael Ahmed of the Awami League, while giving his reaction over the EC decision said, 'We welcome the EC step because the commission, by taking the step, has further proved its neutrality in con-

ducting elections. The EC decision to recount the ballots also proved that the UNB did not have any right to file any story on the results prior to the announcement of the results by the Election Commission.

Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party while commenting on the EC decision said that it would unquestionably help restoring the neutral imof the Election age Commission

The decision has so far upheld the constitutional supremacy of the institution which definitely help democracy to get institutionalised, Menon remarked.

Suranjit Sengupta of the Gonotantri Party (GP) termed the judgement delivered by the EC a historic one. Welcoming the EC decision the GP leader told The Daily Star that the Chief Election Commissioner had taken a 'brave step' that would reconfirm the credibility of the Election Commission.

"Holding of neutral election is the principal ingredient of a sound democracy," Suranjit said adding that the EC had reaffirmed it by not surrender-

ing to any 'interference'. The EC decision relating to the recounting of votes would remain an example in all the Third World countries to follow, the GP leader said.

The Baily Star Unscheduled debate

From Page 1 Col 6

tion over other members. Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, much before this unscheduled debate, passed a ruling that the issue would be discussed in the House today. He also described police attack on Nasim as a very unfortunate incident and called all concerned to behave themselves.

But an uproar erupted in the House when Home" Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, making a statement over the police atrocity on the opposition Chief Whip said that Nasim 'might have been hurt in the melee when police tried to disperse an unruly crowd in front of the AL central office on February 6.

The Home Minister, how ever, expressed his regret at such an 'undestrable' incident and conveyed his sympathy to the Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The Home Minister also informed the House that an one member inquiry committee with an Additional Inspector General of Police had already been formed to probe into the incident.

Minister's statement, the AL MPs started shouting in the House and unanimously termed the statement 'untrue'. Tofael Ahmed of the AL took the floor at this stage and

Dissatisfied with the Home

referring to the newspaper reports published on February 7, informed the Chair that Nasim was beaten up by the police 'deliberately'. At this stage Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina took the floor and held the Home

Minister responsible for all acts of terrorism in the coun-Hasina noted with bitterness in her voice that the Home Minister had masterminded the terrorist activities

outside the Parliament and

then gave a fictitious and con-

cocted statement inside the House. The opposition leader said that during her visit to Rajshahi she had talks with all political parties and their student fronts, including the

unanimous in their demand for the dismissal of the Home

Minister, she added. Hastna called "wholly untrue' the statement made by the Home Minister on the sit uation leading to the harass ment of and indignities suf fered by Mohammed Nasim.

She demanded formation of an inquiry commission headed by the Speaker to undertake a thorough probe into the inci-

He (the Home Minister) must be summarily dismissed, if the commission's report found him guilty of patronising terrorists, the Awami League President said. "If the government retains him in the cabinet even after he is found guilty, the government must be compelled to resign."

As Sheikh Hasina resumed her seat Works Minister Rafigul Islam took the floor to tell the Chair that the AL chief had violated the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure.

"The Treasury bench, or to be more specific, the Home Minister could not be made responsible before the discussion tomorrow" the minister said adding 'the opposition leader frequently try to impose her position in the House by violating rules'. He also said Parliament must function un der the Rules of Procedure of the House, not under the

whim of Shefkh Hasina. Shouts and counter shouts from both the Treasury and Opposition benches continued and the voice of the Works Minister was drowned in the

Sheikh Hasina again rose on a point of personal clarification and showed a ballot paper having seal on the boat symbol. She said this ballot paper was found outside.

Acting Chief Whip Mahbubul Alam Tara took the floor and said the Leader of the Opposition had made an "untrue" statement on Rajshahi incidents.

But his voice was also drowned amid noise.

The Speaker, however, brought the House under control and took up the day's or

JCD. They were found to be Mahathir: Jt venture

From Page 1 Col 7

community here."

"I consider it very successful, very useful and I look forward to fruitful results in the near future ... we have also learnt a lot on Bangladesh's policies ... what bureaucratic processes (are) required (to get projects approved), said the Malaysian Prime Minister.

He brought along with him a large team of entrepreneurs, a couple of senior ministers and a number of top bureaucrats in the trade and industry departments.

To expand trade, he stressed the "need to take steps to correct the weaknesses in the area of commu nications," especially in air and shipping.

On the international scene, Mahathir spoke in his usual fashion, criticising the West for linking aid to human rights and calling for restructuring the UN system.

"ASEAN countries are very concerned about the linkage between aid and human rights... they (Western nations) try to use aid as a means to twist arms in the South. That's what ASEAN objects," the Malaysian leader replied to a question on how ASEAN viewed West's bid to link aid to human rights at the Vienna conference on human rights this June.

There are many interpretations about what constitutes human rights ... ASEAN is also for upholding human rights ... but standards differ in different countries ... our practices differ from the practices in the

"The use of human rights for twisting arm is grossly unfair," Mahathir went on, "We can also point to the lack of human rights in the West. We should also be able to twist their arms as much as they can twist our arms. It can't be a

one-way thing." In reply to another question, Mahathir said that Malaysia wanted the UN restructured and the permanent members of the Security Council stripped of their veto powers. Veto power was contrary to the concept of international democracy, he said and added that the results of the World War Two should not "influence the UN for eternity."

"We think the veto power should go. The countries playing major role (in international affairs) should be given seats in the Security Council," he said.

Mahathir said that he had discussed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina with his Bangladesh counterpart Begum Khaleda Zia. "We both stand for an effective UN participation in the solution of the problem." To another question, he re-

fused to condemn India for not letting an OIC team investigate the affairs of Kashmir, saying that he was not to say how India should handle a particular situation. He denied a suggestion that

the India-Malaysia accord on defence cooperation, signed February 2, was anything but an understanding to cooperate in certain areas of desence production. "That is because India is the

certain items that we require for our armed forces." "There is no pact ... we have not entered into defence pact with any country," Mahathir

only country that produces

asserted. Asked on Bangladesh-Malay sia cooperation on defence, the Prime Minister said that the two countries had already had cooperation in the area in the form exchanges of

students in defence schools. Weekly cabinet meet held

The regular weekly meeting of the cabinet was held yesterday morning at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, re-

ports BSS. A report on the outcome of SAARC Ministerial Conference on children held at Colombo recently was placed before the cabinet. The Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs led a delegation in the conference.

The annual report on the activities of different ministries and divisions for 1990-91 was also placed before the

Arrest warrants against five Observer staff

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday issued warrant of arrest against the Chief Accountant and few other staff of the Bangladesh Observer, reports UNB.

The warrant of arrest were issued following a criminal case filed against them by two directors of the newspaper, court sources said.

Nargis Rahman and Nafiza Chowdhury - two sharehold ers and members of Board of Directors of the Al-Helal Printing and Publishing Company and daughter of late Hamidul Huq Chowdhury brought two criminal cases against five staff of the paper for a criminal breach of trust.

Chief Accountant, Rafigul Islam, Accountant, M Mannan, Commercial Manager, Abdul Wahab, Commercial Assistant and Fazlul Hug, Circulation Manager. The plaintiff stated that the accused persons did not com-

The accused are: A K Dutta,

ply with lawful directions of Board of Directors of the Company and thus did not produce books of account and render any account. They further complained that the accused are trespassers in the office and are liable to be evicted from the of-

from January 16, 1993.

Golam Mustafa to decline Nat'l Film Award

Star Report

Golam Mustafa, the winner of the National Film Award 1990 for best supporting actor, had decided to decline the

"It is not possible for me to receive the award because Peak Vote is the protagonist in the story of Chhutir Fande for which I cannot be given the supporting actor's award," says Mustafa explaining his decision to The Daily Star yesterday. Awards for 1990 have been

"Should an actor doing the role of Santiago in the Old Man and the Sea be given the award for supporting actor just because the character is that of an old man", the disgruntled

announced recently.

He is expected to officially decline the award soon.

actor argued to make his

Mirpur votes

From Page 1 Col 8

main rival candidates, all the 18 candidates of their respective agents and journalists can be present only with Election Commission's permission.

The Election Commission on Saturday cancelled the byelection results and ordered recounting of votes.

Syed Mohammad Mohstn of ruling BNP had been declared cleeted with 80,127 votes against his nearest rival Kamal Ahmed Majumder of Awami League who got 77,535 in the voting. Editorial on Page 4

> PM: Health From Page 1 Col 4

The inaugural function was addressed by Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Strajul Huq, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Syed Ahmed, Health Secretary Ana Abeyesundere, WHO representative in Bangladesh, Prof Habibuzzaman, Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the third congress, K M Nazrul Islam, Chairman of the Orgamising Committee of the third congress, Prof S A Khaleq, President BSP, Abu Obaida Mohammad Mohsin, General Secretary of BSP, Prof Badtur Rahman Khan, President APASP, Shah Munir Hossain Secretary General of APASP and Prof Kazi Mashiur Rahman Director General of Health

Services. The Prime Minister hoped the participating medical experts would be able to identify the problems facing our medical sector and suggest their

remedies. Begum Zia assured that the recommendations of the congress would be given due considerations by her adminis-

Contraband goods seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent During its first operation with a well-equipped modern vehicle Customs surveillance and preventive teams seized contraband goods worth about

Taka 7.5 lakh at the Zia

the city late Saturday night.

PABNA, Feb 14: A local Awami League leader and former UP member was killed by unknown assailants Saturday

Parishad, was found dead in Sonapatil Beel this morning. Bangla Academy

From Page 1 Col 8 deliver the welcome address. Professor Momtazur Rahman Tarafder will present 'Amar Ekushey Baktrita' (lecture on Amar Ekushey), At the end of

newal fees will be increased to the tune of Taka 1.44 crore during the current fiscal year. programme will be held. The bill was piloted yesterday by the Minister of State for Ekushey book fair yesterday Communications Fazlur Rahwitnessed a seminar on man when the House took up Literary practise among the the legislative business. Ear-

> The key-note paper of the seminar was presented by Farid Kabir while Professor Khondaker Ashraf Hossain.

members of her cabinet to the on a song of national poet Nazrul Islam was staged. The drama written by Kazi The Malaysian Prime Muhammed Manjur-e-Maola

life were present at the show.

The Rangana theatre group staged a street drams Ekaler Kotha' at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday as part of the menth-long programme of the Shammilita Sangskritik Jote.

Haque and Begum Llaque saw International Airport (ZIA) in the visiting dignitary and his wife off at the VVIP terminals.

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Iraq pulls all missiles out of no-fly zones

The Midnight File

ANKARA, Feb 14: Iraq has pulled all missiles out of the southern and northern no-fly zones as a gesture to the new US administration, Turkey's Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said. Cetin, in remarks carried by Anatolian News Agency said on Saturday night that Iraq has also withdrawn troops from the north and closed all radars there. Now it has come to a normal period," Cetin said in the remarks quoted by Anatolian. ".... By this attitude, Iraq wants to give a message to the new Clinton government," reports Reuter.

> Pak-Turkish accord on defence industry

ISLAMABAD, Feb 14: Pakistan and Turkey have signed and agreement to cooperate in the defence industry sector, offictals said here today. The accord, which provides for a military consultative ground and the exchange of classified information, was signed by Turkish defence Minister Nevzat Ayaz and his Pakistani counterpart Syed Ghaus Alt Shah, a joint statement said, reports AFP.

Sharif cancels BBC phone-in programme ISLAMABAD, Feb 14: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif can-

celled his appearance on a BBC phone-in-programme today due to a visit by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, the official Assoc-iated Press of Pakistan (APP) said. Sharif had to receive the Malaysian leader whose arrival in Islamabad today for a four-day official visit coincided with the British Broadcasting Cor-poration programme, the agency said, reports AFP.

Motor Vehicles

(Amendment)

Bill passed

The Jattya Sangsad yester

day night passed the Motor

Vehicles (Amendment) Bill

1993, increasing driving li-

cence fee and its renewal fees

Under the amendments

the driving licence fee will be

increased to Taka 100 from

Taka 60 and the renewal fee to

Taka 50 from Taka 30 and late

renewal fee to Taka 70 from

reasons of the bill said that

with the passage of the

amendments, the revenue in-

come from the licence and re-

lier, the bill was introduced in

the House by Communications

Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed

PM's farewell

From Page 1 Col 5

Bangabhaban where Begum

Khaleda Zia introduced the

Minister also introduced the

senior members of his en-

tourage to the Prime Minister

the Malaysian Prime Minister

left for Zia International

Airport in a motorcade to un-

dertake a day-long visit to

Water Development and Flood

Control Minister Majid-ul-

Agriculture, Irrigation,

Chittagong and Kaptai.

Departure ceremony over.

distinguished guest.

Begum Zia.

during last autumn session.

The statement of object and

reports BSS.

Taka 50.

AL leader killed in Pabna

night, three days after his release from jail, reports UNB. Shafi Kamai Biswas (34). Sadar thana unit Publicity Secretary of AL and former member of Malanchi Union

the first session on the day, Gazi Shamsur Rahman will deliver the presidential speech. In the evening, a musical The 14th day of the Amar

youth writers in Bangladesh: Seventies and eighties."

Nasrin Jahan and Sarker Amin discussed the topic. In the evening a dance drama 'Shunno-e-Bukey' based

was conducted by Dipa Khan-A large number of spectators from different walks of

Meanwhile, some newly published books were displayed at the book fair yester-

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