The Midnight Rile

Israel hints at reviewing

deportation cases

Mideast mission of Secretary of State Warren Christopher by

indicating it was ready to speed up review of Palestinian de-

portation cases. The aim, Israeli officials said, is to give the

Palestinians a "face-saving" gesture that should enable them to

agree to resume negotiations over self-rule in April.

Christopher opened two days of talks here with Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

He was due to see a Palestinian delegation in East Jerusalem

Tuesday night and again on Wednesday in the Western part of

JERUSALEM, Feb 23: Israel gave a boost Tuesday to the

## Diarrhoea claims 5 lives, attacks 500 in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 23: Diarrhoea claimed five lives and attacked five thousand others in the town during the last week, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

Official sources admitted spread of the disease in the municipality but confirmed only one death. The victim, identified as

Ghajli Begum (61) of Chanmari in the town, died in the general hospital Monday night. About 500 diarroheal pa-

tients were admitted to the hospital last week, hospital sources said.

Due to lack of accommoda-

tion, authorities set up two tents in the hospital premises to treat the increasing number patients. The hospital has only one cholera ward with 10

A large number of patients with stomach ailments are pouring in the general hospital everyday as Narayangani Hospital in the town does not accept any diarroheal patients, local people said.

The worst affected areas are Naloapara, Daobhogue, Shaheednagar, Mashdair, Kashipur, Nayamati, Chanmari and Charargop.

is a power vested in the gov-

ernment to cancel citizenship

and that collaboration can be a

# Azam: Pakistani

From Page 1 Col 7 Temporary Citizenship Order (po-149 of 1972), the court asked "how do you reconcile

The counsel of the petitioner replied that the said provision, which includes only students and serviceholders stranded in Pakistan, was given a "liberal construction" as all others were also allowed to come back.

Saying that physical pres ence and permanent restdentship are two different things, he added that Azam was stranded in Pakistan as he was detained against his will.

The court wanted to know what the dictionary meaning of the word 'stranded' was Justice Choudhury went on to quote the meaning of the word from the Oxford Dictionary as "run around in difficulty; unable to get around specially for want of funds ..."

Saying that Golam Azam stayed in Pakistan "unwi llingly", Barrister Yusuf noted that after his return in 1978 he submitted an application for the restoration of his citizenship and surrendered his Pakistani passport.

"It is not correct, it is rather misleading as he (Azam continued to be a citizen of Pakistan always, he never became a citizen of Bangladesh," countered the Attorney General Aminul Haque.

He added that Azam never took the oath of allegiance, al ways held a Pakistani passport and even registered as a foreign national.

Pointing out that the petitioner's "whole" family has been living in Bangladesh. Barrister Yusuf said that Azam "in his 70 years of age" only lived outside the country for 11 months in Pakistan and for five years in London.

"This is a very material assertion and there was no denial (in the affidavit of opposition) of forced stay in Pakistan for 11 months," he added.

The government, he noted, did not have any records to prove that Azam had not made any attempts to come back.

On the other hand, he said, the government "categorically admitted" that Azam left Pakistan in December 1972 by saying that he did not go to Saudi Arabia to perform hat but for orchestrating anti-Bangladesh propaganda. It was again admitted by the government that Azam attended the OIC conference in 1972.

"The question that the petitioner came out of Pakistan in December 1972 is admitted by the government and since then he has never visited Pakistan till now."

Referring, to the book "Shadharan Khomar Prekkhit" written by Professor Abu Sayeed, which was quoted in the Affidavit of Opposition filed by the government, Barrister Yusuf said "the book was published in February 1992 only after the Nirmul Committee came into existence.

He described Prof Sayeed as a "well known" Awami League leader, a former Secretary of BKSAL, who was defeated by Jamaat Secretary General Mattur Rahman Nizami in the last parliamentary election from Pabna and as an "arch en-

emy of the petitioner." The Court reminded that these books are not written on personal knowledge but based

On having to take an oath of allegiance, the counsel for the petitioner referred to the M M spahani case decision in the Appellate Division Court.

on reported facts.

"Only those who were government servants or those who were wanting some kind of benefit from the government were required to submit an affidavit of allegiance, it was never mandatory for every-

body," he added. Barrister Yusuf noted that

nowhere in the PO-149 of 1972" is the power delegated to the government to cancel the citizenship as the law "itself is temporary." The Court noted that there

ground for disqualification under the Bangladesh Citizenship Act of 1951. Barrister Yusuf said that the

government did not exercise the power under the Act of 1951 but used the provision under the Temporary Order "to remove a doubt." However, he added, the

government by issuing a circular of 1976 urging the 39 whose citizenship was can celled to apply for restoration made the order of March 1972 a nullity as the citizenship cannot be cancelled without a show cause notice under the Act of 1951, which was also in

"Cancellation is not possible under Article 3 of the Temporary Order," he said. The court wanted to know

Citing rulings of the House of Lords, Barrister Yusuf replied "irrelevant considerations cannot be used."

He added that Article 3 al lows the removal of doubt only in respect to Article 2 under the Temporary Order which provides three conditions, if the person was born here, was a permanent resident on March 25, 1971 and continued to remain so.

The Court noted that the government had the "material in collaboration with the enemy" to cancel the citizenship.

But Barrister Yusuf said that the government did not take recourse to the Act of 1951.

The Court again noted that "deprivation" of citizenship can be done during a war for assisting the enemy in that war under Section 16.3 (b) of the Act of 1951 through a show cause notice.

In that case, the counsel for the petitioner replied, the petitioner could have asked for the formation of an investigation committee.

Under the Temporary Order, he added, there was no question of doubt as Azam fulfilled all three conditions to be deemed a citizen.

The Court said that the problem was that the "physical" declaration of war came in December 1971 while the Temporary Order came later in March 1972 but with retrospective effect from March 25, 1971.

"The Mujibnagar Government always very rightly and technically said occupation army and not Pakistan army as Bangladesh government never recognised Pakistani authority after that date," Justice Choudhury added.

Barrister Yusuf alleged that the Awami League government had "unlawfully and arbitrarily disqualified the citizenship of the petitioner" and that is why he could not apply for citizenship and had to take a Pakistani passport under "compulsion". It could only be cancelled under the Act of 1951, he said, but no such steps were taken. It is denied that the petitioner entered as a Pakistani citizen but he only used the Pakistani passport as a travel document.

"But the citizenship is stamped on the passport," the

of the Nirmul Committee, told Court pointed out. UNB by telephone last night "Use of a passport and citithat the youngmen carrying a zenship are not synonymous pistol and a cut-rifle warned and a passport in no way the mother of Hassan Imam proves that he was a Pakistani that consequences would be citizen," replied Barrister bad if her son again made any Yusuf, while citing some Indian remarks on Freedom Party court decisions. leaders Col (Rtd) Faruq and

"The petitioner would emphatically state that when the Prime Minister and the presidential candidates went to meet him they did not meet with a foreigner," he declared as the presentation of the affidavit in reply was completed.

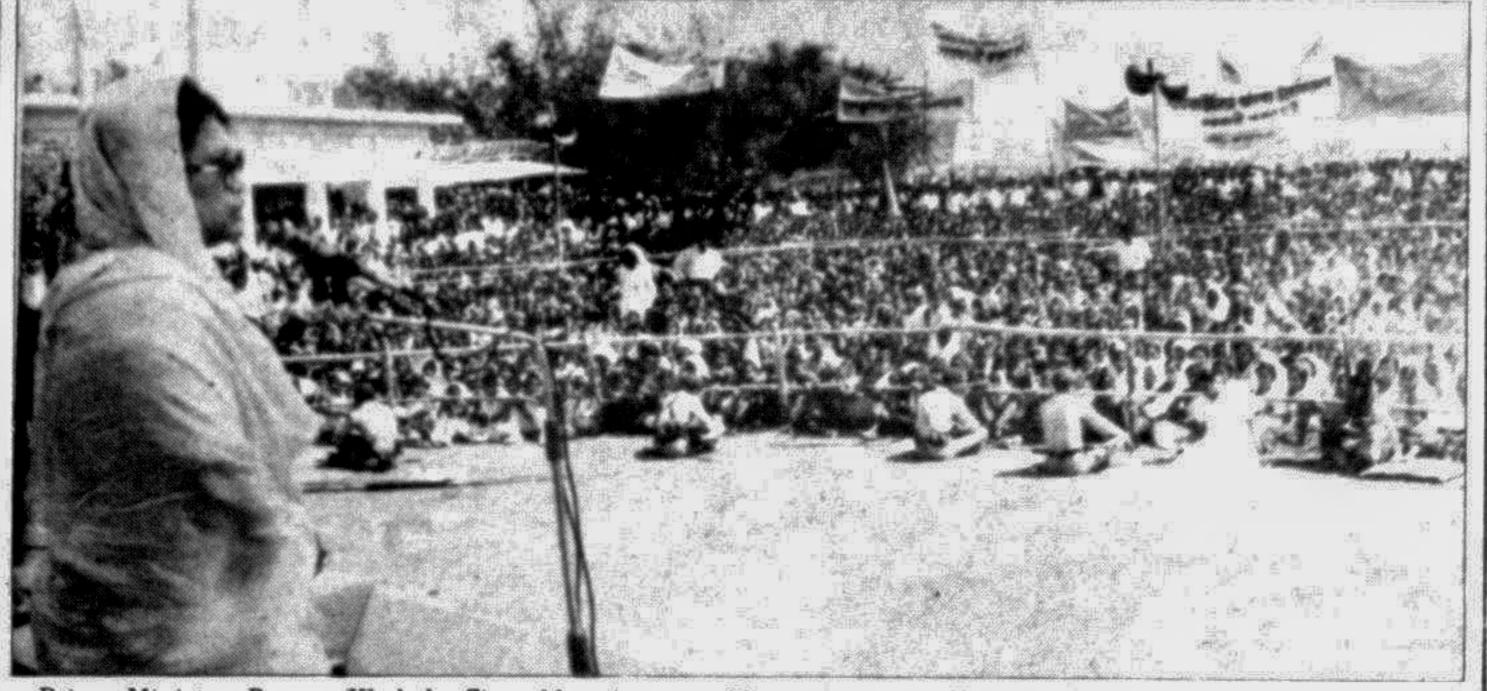
The hearing was adjourned till 2 pm today.

The counsel for the peti-

Editor: S. M. Ali

**Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam** 

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Chouhali Degree College in Sirajganj yesterday. - PID photo

#### Bail petitions of Elias Ali rejected

The two bail petitions of Elias Ali, ex-General Secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Central Committee was rejected yesterday by a High Court Division bench compris-Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hug and Justice Mahafuzur Rahman, reports

The case in brief is that Elias Ali was charged with murder of one Ashraful Azam Mamun, a student of Surjya Sen Hall on September 3, 1992. FIR was lodged against Elias by Mohammad Nasrullah Khan Zunaid, a student of the same hall.

Another FIR was lodged with Ramna Police on August 31, 1992 containing allegation that exchange of firing took place between two rival groups of Dhaka University students in between Jasimuddin Hall and Surjya Sen Hall.

by gunfire at the gate of Surjya Sen Hall and died instantaneously. Md Hannan, Dr A K M Ali

and M Khaled Ahmed advo-

An unknown person was hit

cates appeared for the peti-Deputy Attorney General AFM Shahid appeared for the

yesterday.

Gunmen threaten

Hassan Imam

went to the Magbazar resi-

dence of renowned actor

Hassan Imam and enquired

about his whereabouts at about

leaders of Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul

Committee which is continu-

ing a movement against the

anti-liberation forces, was not

Razzak, MP, another stalwart

Awami League leader Abdur

They, he said, also threat-

ened one nephew of Imam,

who appeared on the scene

hearing the shouts by the out-

Ramna police was informed

When contacted, Mrs

Hassan said police visited the

Azad murder:

None arrested

so far

By DMCH Correspondent

one in connection with the

until Tuesday night.

pm Monday.

Police are yet to arrest any-

Fatally wounded Azad suc-

cumbed to his injuries at the

Dhaka Medical College Hos-

pital (DMCH) at around 10:00

scene twice after the incident.

lmam, one of the central

7:30 Tuesday evening.

at home.

Rashid.

of the incident.

Two unidentified youths

# Ramzan begins today

From Page 1 Col 8 and discord.

In a message on the eve of the month of Ramzan the President felicitated all and prayed to almighty Allah so that he gave each and everyone the ability to follow the ideals of Ramzan in building a peaceful society removing all dis-

The months of fasting, he said, inspires all to follow the ideals of forgiveness, tolerance, restraint, and self- purification. It was in the sacred month

of Ramzan he said, that the deliverance of the holy Quaran with the message of emancipation of mankind began. Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia yesterday sought divine blessings for the happiness, peace and prosperity for In a message on the eve of holy Ramzan, Begum Zia hoped that the spirit of sacrifice,

abstinence and self-purification of Ramzan would create among us a feeling of tolerance, mutual respect and fraternity paving the way for consolidation of democracy in the The Prime Minister said it

is the moral and religious obligations of all Muslims to uphold the sanctity of the holy "Siam" is one of the main

pillars of Islam, which purifies

the soul of Muslims. She said. "siam" creates the feeling of humanity and consolidates the spirit of service to humanity and feeling of brother-hood.

Begum Zia expressed her best wishes for all the Muslims of Bangladesh and the entire

Awami League chief Shetkh Hasina yesterday called for purging of individual and social life by making sacrifice and exercising restraint during Ramzan.

Muslim ummah on the occa-

In a message on the eve of Ramzan, she said it is the duty of us to free people from injustice, oppression, jealousy, selfishness, chaos and conflict. May Almighty Allah give us

the strength to attain these objectives in this month of stam, she said seeking divine blessings and urged all concerned to maintain the sanctity of the holy month. The Awami League

President expressed her concern at the price-hike of essential commodities on the eve of Ramzan. The rise in the prices of essentials will increase the hardship of the poor who are already battered by socio-economic problems.

Hasina asked the government and the business community to ensure that the price of essentials do not go beyond the buying capacity of the commonman.

From Page 1 Col 7 years behind during the auto-

programmes of her government, Begum Zia said villages had been identified as the focal point of development. The development of the villages will lead to the progress of the country, she stated.

for creating employment opportunities. In this context, she said necessary help and cooperation of the government would be provided to those willing to invest in dairy farms. fish cultivation, raising of poulcottage industries. The Prime Minister said

the country had been importing powder milk worth Taka 350 crore annually. If the money so spent, can be saved by raising dairy farms, we can spend it for infrastructural development.

demands she said the government would consider nationalisation of Chowhali Pilot High School and degree college in phases. The Chowhali-Nagarpur link road will be made motorable, she added.

Earlier, Begum Zia maugurated voluntary re-excavation of the 3.6 km Jotepara Khas Kanlia Canal. The canal, when re-excavated, is expected to bring an additional 32 thousand acres of land under irrigation facilities helping an additional yield of 1000 tons of foodgrain. A total of 68.48 metric tons of wheat has been allocated for the re-excavation work of the canal.

vaults. He asked the bankers to give up the colonial concept of collateral banking and instead serve the people through a relationship-based merchant banking.

Saifur Rahman further ad vised the bankers to be innovative and forward looking in their dealings with the clients and adapt themselves to objectives and demands of the entrepreneurs. He said their efficiency would be judged on the basis of the amount of loan advanced for investment and not merely on intake of deposits.

The minister directed the officials to undertake creditmarketing drives along with mobilizing savings. Although our savings-investment rate was very low, the rates of interest for lending by commercial banks were very high, he observed.

### 61 MPs resent govt decision to stop ads to Bhorer Kagoj

By Staff Correspondent

parliament Tuesday resented the government decision to stop advertisement to the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj and demanded immediate disbursement of government ads for the newspaper.

trolling the newspaper's policy and demanded that the advertisement should be distributed according to the circulation of the newspapers. The signatories included

Ahmed, Abdur Razzak, Prof. Abdul Hafiz, Suranjit Sengupta, Rashed Khan Menon, Shamsuddoha, Shajahan Siraj, Sheikh Selim, Matiya Chowdhury and Mirza Azam.

### BCL activist killed in clash with Shibir

BOGRA, Feb 23: An activist of Awami League backed Chhatra League (M-I) was killed and 10 people were injured in a clash between supporters of Jamaat-Shibir and All-Party Student Unity (APSU) at Nandigram here today, reports UNB.

# US ultimatum to

Somali warlord MOGADISHU, Feb 23: US-led forces today gave an ultimatum to Somali warlord Mohamed Said Hersi until midnight on Thursday to pull his forces out of the southern city of Kismayu, where his militia fought running battles with rivals. US military spokesman Fred Peck said the ultimatum, signed by Lieutenant-General Robert Johnston, Commander of American forces in Somalia and US special envoy Robert Oakley, had been communicated to Hersi, also known as Morgan, by radio, reports Reuter.

## War crimes tribunal

and children last December.

refutable crimes

sands of victims;

in late 1991;

Kozarac:

mountains:

victims:

Eagleburger also cited what

The siege of Sarajevo since

he said were a series of ir-

April, where daily weapons

fore had claimed numerous

manitarian aid, resulting in

death of an estimated thou-

Continued blockades of hu-

The destruction of Vukovar

Terror tactics against the

Inhumane treatment and

massacres in detention camps

such as Ban a Luka/Manjaca,

Brcko/ Luka, Krajina/ Pran-

javor, Omarska, Prijedor/ Ke-

raterm and Trnopolie/

200 Muslims by Serbian police

near Varjanta, in the Vlasica

3,000 Muslims-men, women

and children - by Serb irregu-

lars at a factory and pig farm

near Breko, last May and June;

Muslims in Brod in June:

The execution of about 100

The execution of 56 Muslim

The massacre of more than

The murder of 2,000 to

30,000 Muslims in Banja Luka;

From Page 1 Col 4

the capital.

sponsibility for crimes against humanity in Bosnia-Hezegovina: Zeljko Raznjatovic, also known as "Arkan", the leader of the Serbian Tigers militia, which have been linked to brutal ethnic cleansing and massacres of up to 3,000 civilians, he spent several years in prison in Yugoslavia and abroad for crimes including bank robbery, before joining the Yugoslav secret service. He has been accused of killing at least two Yugoslav emigrants abroad. He has fought with his militia in Croatia and Bosnia and is cur rently fighting alongside Scrbs in Krajina against the Croats.

Vojislav Sesclej, the head of the Servian radical party and the party's paramilitary arm, the Chetnik movement, for atrocities in a number of Bosnian cities: Drago Prace, the Bosnian

Serb commander of the Omarska Detention Camp where mass executions and torture are said to have taken place; Borislav Herak, a Bosnian Serb militiaman who had con-

fessed to killing more than 200 civilian; Adem Delic, the comman-

der of a camp at Celebici, where at least 15 Serbs were beaten to death last August.

"Adif" and "Arif," two Croatian paramilitaries said to have killed about 50 Serbian women

civilians at Grbavici, near Zvorník on May 18; The killing of nearly 300 Mulsims by Croats in Prozor in October: And the slaying of more

nica on September 24-26.

#### Ctg City Corporation From Page 1 Col 5 attack on Workers (c) He refuses to perform or Party office in

becomes disabled from performing his functions; or (d) He is guilty of miscon-

responsible for any loss or misapplication of money or property of the Corporation. According to the text of the law, misconduct means misuse of power, corruption, jobbery, favouritism, nepotism and

willful maladministration and

duct or abuse of power or is

any attempt at or abetment of such misconduct. The opposition MPs protested the provisions concerning removal of the mayor and commissioners directly elected by the people and moved amendment seeking annulment of the concerned section of the law providing the scope for removing the people's representatives from

their tenure was over. The opposition MPs argued that the removal of elected representatives from any local body was violative of some articles of the country's Constitution relating to the independence of the local gov-

the city corporation before

The proposed amendments of the opposition MPs, however, were rejected by voice

The House adopted certain amendments to the bill which were moved by the Treasury bench MP and Acting Chief Whip of Parliament Mahboob

The opposition MPs who brought amendments to the bill included Rahamat Ali, Abdul Matin Khasru and Salauddin Yousuf of the Awami League and Suranjit Sengupta of the Genotantric Party.

Three more identical bills concerning city corporations of Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi are awaiting approval of the House.

These bills are likely to be passed by Parliament today. The House was adjourned at 6-10 pm yesterday to resume at 10 this morning.

#### Chuadanga Poura Chairman joins BNP

Chuadanga Pourashava Chairman Ohidul Islam Biswas yesterday joined the BNP expressing his confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who is also chairperson of BNP, reports BSS.

## than 60 Serbian soldiers and civilians by Muslims in Kame-One killed in

Jessore

By Staff Correspondent One person was killed and least eight others were injured in an attack on the district office of the Workers Party in Jessore yesterday, Workers Party sources said.

Ayub Hossain, a Chhatra Moitree leader, died as a bullet hit his left eye. Ayub was first taken to

Jessore Sadar Hospital from where he was referred to PG Hospital in Dhaka. Ayub succumbed to his injury on way to Sources alleged that BNP activists attacked the Workers

Party office yesterday afternoon, hurled several bombs and fired shots. The attack appears to be a sequel to an altercation between the JCD and Mottree

activists in the morning at the local college. Workers Party will bring out a protest procession in Dhaka at 4:00 pm today to condemn

the incident.

Two killed in road mishaps

MANIKGANJ, Feb 23: Two people were killed in two accidents on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in 12 hours till 9 am today, police said, reports

## Army on alert

From Page 1 Col 5 Parliament reopened after the brief disruptions with BJP leader Lal Krishna Advant accusing the government of imposing an 'undeclared emergency' in India by banning rallies in New Delhi for three

"These steps betray a sense of desperation and frustration on the part of the government," said Advani, head of the

opposition in parliament. Earlier today, BJP MPs disrupted the Lower House and velled at Speaker Shivraj Patil to protest against the nationwide mass arrests of support-

'Shame on the murder of democracy," BJP MPs chanted as others hurled paper missiles inside the House.

The government's fiscal

1993-94 economic survey is to be unveiled in parliament on Tuesday and the railway budget is to be put to a vote on Wednesday. The overall budget is to be released on Saturday.

tioner will start placing the judgements of the two judges during the initial hearing of the petition last year. The two that occasion.

judges gave a split verdict on murder of Abul Kalam Azad

## Inside the computer room of Banglabazar Patrika ransacked by gunmer - Star photo

Gunmen storm

From Page 1 Col 7 Neither Rab nor Giasuddin identified any of the miscreants or how they came. There was no transport in front of

the office.

workers could not give the number of miscreants involved but they said that there were more than six. Night patrol police came to

The two puzzled newspaper

the office immediately after the incident and sent a message to the Editor that his office had been ransacked. A case has been filed by the

Editor with Tejgaon police. BSS adds: Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Tuesday bitterly condemned and protested the raid in the office of the Banglabazar Patrika by armed

miscreants. In a joint statement BFUJ Acting President Alhaj Zahirul Haq and Secretary General Amanullah Kabir said that the miscreants forced their way into the office of the daily and destroyed property.

Terming the incident as an example of criminal intolerance, the BFUJ leaders called upon the government to bring to book the offenders and give them punishment. "We believe in the unfet-

tered right of the newspapers and press freedom" they said adding that the journalist community had to light for it in the past and would continue their struggle in future too. They termed the press freedom as one of the conditions for giving democracy an

institutional shape and ex-

pressed their pledge that the

journalists community would, in no way, allow jeopardising this hard earned freedom under any circumstances. Meanwhile, UNB says:

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali re-

sented the dastardly attack on

the Banglabazar Patrika by an unidentified group early Tuesday. "It's an unfortunate incident," he said and announced that the issue would be dis-

cussed in Parliament Wednesday. Speaker's comment came when Awami League MP Tofael Ahmed raised the issue on a point of order shortly before the House was adjourned

Tofael said a band of masked culprits stormed the newspaper office early Tuesday morning and damaged computers and other valuable equipment.

Tuesday evening.

The Awami League Joint-Secretary Abdul Jalil and Publicity Secretary Mozaffar Hossain Paltu visited the office of the Banglabazar Patrika which was attacked and damaged by unidentified people. They visited the newspaper

office representing party chief

The President and

Sheikh Hasina, Jalil told UNB.

Secretary-General

Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP) Chowdhury Mohammad Faruq and Prof Majidul Islam have strongly condemned the attack on the Banglabazar Patrika by a group of armed miscreants and urged the government to ensure full security to the newspaper for its uninterrupted publication.

# PM: Unite

cratic regime. Referring to the ongoing

The Prime Minister called upon the people to come for ward for investment in small and medium scale industries try birds and other rural based

Responding to some local

# Bank rate

From Page 1 Col 8

Sixty-one members of the

They said that the government decision aimed at con-

Mohiuddin Ahmed, Tofael