Opposition in JS blasts govt

'Hassan Imam threatened for criticising PM'

"It is now clear that the threat to life of Hassan Imam is an attempt to retaliate for his criticism of the Prime Minister," said Awami League stalwart Tofael Ahmed.

In a sharp retort to Wing Commander (Retd) Hamidullah dispensation.

Intolerance and arrogance brought down many heads in the past, he reminded the

of the way discussion on Hassan Imam, "a man of bad

"He (Imam) had made personal attacks on people, including the Prime Minister, in abusive language proving himself a man of bad taste.... He does not deserve mention in this august House," said

Soon after the House resumed its sitting 40 minutes behind schedule at 2-40 pm, Abdur Razzak of Awami League took the floor and reopened the issue yesterday. Referring to newspaper reports, he said armed miscreants had visited the residence of Hassan Imam, a member of Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul Committee, and threatened to take his life.

as followers of Farooq-Rashid (of Freedom Party), Razzak said he (Rashid) was the killer

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and should no longer go unpunished for his

pandemonium more than once as some Opposition members wanted to raise issues out of the way. The result was Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, who was in the chair, could not take up the day's business before it consumed nearly an hour of the House's valuable time.

Besides the Awami League members, several members of Jatiya Party were seen simultaneously on their legs. Taking the floor; Fazle Rabbi said his Secretary party's acting General Khaledur Rahman Tito was detained under the Special Powers Act although he was enlarged on bail by the court in two specific cases.

This, he said, has demonstrated the intolerant attitude of the government towards its political opponents who are being subjected to oppression and harassment.

Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon would not miss the chance of expressing his grievance. He took the floor to say that one of his party workers in Jessore, injured in a clash with pro-gov ernment student organisation, was not allowed treatment in hospital. As a result, the victim died without treatment, he al

Moments before the House was adjourned at 4-45 pm, the JP MPs staged a walkout protesting government's detention order against the party's Secretary General.

Earlier, JP leader Moudud Ahmed demanded that the Home Minister make a statement on the issue in parlia

decision but the hardliners

were insisting that those who

derailed from communist ide-

front of the party - Bangladesh

Chhatra Union -pressed the

CPB central leaders for unity. A

group of the BCU leaders came

to the office yesterday and ex-

pressed their resentment

over the latest development

ning to demonstrate in front

of the party office during the

Central Committee meeting on

Godown workers

clash, blast

60 bombs

than 60 hand bombs were ex

ploded at the Boira CSD food

godown in Khalishpur thana

within a span of four hours to-

day, official sources said, re-

However, nobody was in-

The godown manager said

Earlier on Tuesday

The incident is a sequel to a

They have been involved in

at least 40 bombs were ex-

ploded at 9 am and 15 others

Khalishpur police in a raid re-

covered 127 hand bombs from

clash over work at the godown

between rival groups of labour-

a series of clashes at the

godown for the last two

Attempt on Menon:

One more arrested

By Court Correspondent

Department (CID) yesterday

brought one Bhajo Ranjan

Jamadar for interrogation in

connection with the attempt

on Works Party leader Rashed

Ranjan at Pirojpur, Wednesday

and produced him before the

On a prayer by the CID

Unidentified gunmen shot

Police the magistrate granted

four day's police remand for

at Rashed Khan Menon MP

near the Workers Party office

at Topkhana Road in the city

trusted with the investigation

lice told the Daily Star last

night that investigation was

still going on. Police are yet to

prepare the charge-sheet

against the accused, he added.

The CID police was en-

A senior official of CID po-

on August 17 last year.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate

Police arrested Bhajo

Khan Menon, MP.

Dhaka, Thursday.

interrogation.

into the case.

The Criminal Investigation

ports UNB.

the godown.

ers, workers said.

jured in the blasts.

at about 1 pm today.

KHULNA, Feb 25: More

The student wing was plan-

inside the party.

Meanwhile, the student

als should guit the party.

CPB: No solution yet



UNITED WE STAND: Two factions of the DUJ brought out a joint procession in city - Star photo yesterday protesting attack on Banglabazar Patrika.

Newsmen observe 3-hour token strike today

By Staff Correspondent Journalists and press workers of all the newspapers in the capital will observe a three-hour pen down today protesting attack on the office of the Banglabazar Patrika early Tuesday.

They will also hold a rally at 11:00 am today in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

The call for the pen down from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm came at a protest meeting yesterday at the Green Road office of the Banglabazar Patrika.

Presided over by the unit chief of the newspaper Mostafa Firoz, the meeting was addressed, among others, by the acting President of BFUJ Alhaj Zahirul Huq and General Secretary Amanullah Kabir, DUJ leaders M Shahjahan Mian, Altaf Mahmud, Jahirul Huq and Ruhul Amin Gazi, National Press Club President Hasan Shariar and General Secretary Shawkat Mahmud, former BFUJ leaders Habibur Rahman Milon and Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, former DUJ General Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and Banglabazar Patrika Editor Matiur Rahman Chowdhury.

Later, a silent procession of the journalists and press employees paraded the city

BJP rally foiled

From Page 1 Col 5 publicity surrounding it made the demonstration a success even before it began.

"Whatever violence there has been so far has been from the police and not from us," he told Reuters by telephone from a central Delhi police station after his arrest.

"I'm very happy at the tremendous response we have got. Thousands of common people have defled the ban to be with us."

Advani earlier told reporters he wanted to be arrested to demonstrate what he called oppression by the embattled government of Prime Minister PV Narashimha

India for decades," Advant said, recalling peaceful protests started by Mahatma Mohandas Gandhi which led to independence from Britain in 1947.

"This has been a tradition in

The BJP believes its support has blossomed in the wake of the destruction of the 16th century mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya by mobs who claimed it stood on the birthplace of the Hindu god Rama.

The mosque has been the focus of the Hindu nationalist campaign which carried the BJP, the movement's parlia-

mentary standard-bearer, from the political fringes to become the official opposition in just a few years.

The government's crushing response to the rally showed how fearful it was of the growing popularity of the Hindu nationalists in this country whose population of 870 million includes 100 million Muslims. political analysts said.

All roads into the capital were blocked ahead of its and suspected nationalists turned back. Those who arrived by rail were put on trains heading in opposite directions.

Police set up scores of checkpoints and banned private traffic from central New Delhi on Thursday, Buses were off the streets and schools were closed. Most people stayed at home and many who tried to go to work found their way barred.

Among them were 17 outraged Members of Parliament, including several from the ruling Congress party, who said they were detained by police for several

The BJP, eager to keep up the momentum of protest, announced it would hold "antirepression day" rallies throughout the country on

College principal arrested for defalcating Taka 2.5 lakh

By Staff Correspondent Police arrested Mustafizur Rahman, principal of a newly

established college in the city on charge of defrauding both teachers and students Tuesday

Mustafizur Rahman estab lished Dhaka Laboratory College at Road No. 27, Dhanmondi in the current academic session and admitted over 170 students as well as appointed some 17 teachers reportedly taking bribe, both college managing committee and police sources said.

They said that the college was running without government recognition and the students were not registered with the Higher Secondary Education Board, Dhaka, to appear in the HSC examinations in 1994. Moreover the principal defalcated some Taka 2.5 lakh of the college fund, they added.

Following a decision at a meeting of the recently formed managing committee of the college, the principal was handed over to Dhanmondi police who produced him before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in Dhaka Wednesday, said police.

Talking to The Daily Star over telephone. Chairman of the committee, Dr. Nur-e-Alam Patwary said that the principal graduate and we did it as his deceit left over 170 students and 17 teachers in despatr and uncertainty.

Lalmonirhat lawyers begin court boycott

LALMONIRHAT, Feb 25: Lawyers started today (Thurs day) a week-long boycott of all the criminal courts in the district demanding transfer of a thana magistrate for his alleged misbehaviour with an advocate on January 25, reports UNB.

According to the strikers Hatibandha Thana Magistrate M Abdul Hannan Sarker exchanged hot words with former General Secretary of the district Bar Association Advocate Fazlul Haque Khandker on the bail issue of a case.

outside Bangladesh till 1978

and that there is nothing to

prove that he was prevented

from coming back. "The provi-

sion provided in proviso to

Article 2 is not attracted in

the present case," Barrister

that Justice Sarkar was

*Deviating somewhat from

the Appellate Division (ruling)

by making an exception that

the proviso was not applicable

for a politico-military mission.

noted that the phrase

"politico-military mission" was

included only in a verbal sub-

the case (40 DLR) of Mirza

Shahab Ispahani, whose prop-

erty was declared abandoned

on the contention that he was

a Pakistani citizen on March

Appellate Division found him

to be a citizen under proviso

that this case was also of no

help to the petitioner's case.

*Citizenship is distinct from

nationality but the question

remains: Are they interchange

able? All citizens are nationals

but all nationals are not citi

Pointing out that Tem

porary Order came in Decem-

ber 1972 with effect from

March 26, 1971, the Court

asked which law was in effect

during the interim period

considering the Mujibnagar

Declaration accepted all the

asserted that the Citizenship

retrospective effect repeal all

my previous rights? It cannot

be repealed by implication till

it comes to the knowledge o

the public," the Court ob

To which, Barrister Yusul

"Can a subsequent law with

existing Pakistani laws

Act of 1951 was in force.

zens," read Barrister Yusuf.

However, he added, the

But Justice Sarkar opined

25, 1971.

of Article 2.

However, Barrister Yusul

Barrister Yusuf then cited

To this, the Court observed

Yusuf quoted him as saying.

The Midnight File Kuwaiti warplane crashes

KUWAIT, Feb 25: A Kuwaiti warplane crashed and burst into flames at Kuwait International Airport today but the pilot ejected to safety, the official Kuwait news agency said. The brief report did not say whether there were injuries or further damage, reports Reuter.

Zaire troops hold legislators prisoner for second day

KINSHASA, Feb 25: Troops were holding Zatrean legislators prisoner for the second day today, demanding they approve use of controversial banknotes which have caused riots and crippled trade. Witnesses said armed soldiers kept up an overnight siege at Kinshasa's People's Palace Conference Centre, where they blocked off a meeting of the opposition-dominated High Council of the Republic (HCR) on Wednesday. Some 400 members of the transitional parliament, set up last year by a pro-democracy conference, were trapped inside. The troops were demanding that HCR Vice-Chairman Joseph Ileo read a statement on state radio sanctioning use of new five-million-za:re banknotes, worth about 2 dollars, reports Reuter.

Democracy under threat: Hasina

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday observed that the hardwon democracy was under threat while inefficiency of BNP in governing the country plunged the nation into frustration, reports UNB.

Hasina made the remarks during a meeting with newly elected chairman Sheikh Shahidullah Bacchu of Pabna, Solaiman Ali Sarkar Thakurgaon and Mostafa Kamal of Laksham pourashavas who called on her at 29 Mintoo Road in the morning.

Welcoming the chairmen, Hasina asked them to work for the people with sincerity and honesty in their respective areas to fulfil the aspiration of the people.

Earlier, the newly elected chairmen presented Hasina with bouquets.

President's Rule extended in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Feb 25: The Lok Sabha today approved the extension of President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir by another six months with the Home Minister declaring that the centre was open to the suggestion of granting greater autonomy to the state, if it provided a permanent solution, reports PTI.

Mixed reaction From Page 1 Col 5

of VAT on capital machinery are piecemeal in nature which would help the investors little. He said instead of announcing such piecemeal measures the government should offer a package of facilities. "Piecemeal measures would only lead to loss of revenue to the government," Yunus said.

He further said the bank rate reduction may hit the fixed earning group hard leading them to go for "wrong utilization of their money". He said the government should introduce investment schemes and float bonds and securities for attracting their savings as the country's capital market is still weak.

Yunus also said the low rate facility must not be hindered by any bureaucratic tangles.

Meanwhile, BJSA said the step to lower bank rates would help remove the stagnation of the economy and would also help the commercial banks to play a bold role in disbursing

The BJSA also hoped that bank rate reduction would bring down the interest rate on loans for running capital to nine per cent from the existing 14 per cent. The association felt that this would make the jute industries competitive in the world market.

Fund under MPs From Page 1 Col 4

Opposition felt that it had won and pressed for a division, but

The Treasury bench MPs are constitutionally bound to vote in favour of the party decision on any issue.

Another resolution seeking electrification of all the villages of Haimchar and Chandpur thana under Chandpur district by the 1993-94 fiscal year was withdrawn following the concerned minister's assurance that the demand would be met

gradually Prof Mohammad Abdullah MP of the BNP moved the res olution and a large number of MPs from the Opposition

bench spoke in its favour. Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister

Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain while speaking on the resolution said that the government was willing to bring all the villages of the country under electrification as soon as possible.

Limitation in the field of technical assistance was the main obstacle to implementing the government desire in this regard, the minister said.

Heroin smuggling 4 more witnesses examined

By Court Correspondent

Four more witnesses were examined and cross-examined in the trial of the sensational drug smuggling case in the Court of the Second Additional Sessions Judge, Dhaka, Thursday. Three accused in the case

- an American Eliadah Me-Cord, a South African Robert Blankson and a Nigerian Ochendu Goddy -- arrested in connection with an attempt to traffic 3.27 kg of heroin to Zurich, Switzerland, from Bangladesh were also produced before the Judge during the yesterday's Court proceedings. Two other accused - a

Bangladeshi Abdul Qayum and another Nigerian Okey Godwin, are still absconding.

ined and cross-examined in the Court yesterday were a Bikalpa taxi driver Manjurul Haq Liton, taxi helper Ekhlasur Rahman and two offictals of Passport Office Mohammad Hossein and Bashirullah.

Out of 33 witnesses, a total of 14 were examined and cro-

From Page 1 Col 7

drum up support, and abstain from work for a full day on April 19 and arrange a grand rally in the capital on the same

BMA President Dr M A Majed spoke at the press conference. BCS coordinating committee Chairman M Abu Hena and Secretary General Engineer M Ruhul Matin, BMA Secretary General Dr Gazi Abdul Luq, IEB President Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury and honorary General Secretary of IEB M A K Azad were present among others at the press

administration led by the pub-

Dr Majed said that under the present administrative system there was no scope for accountability to the people because the public representa-

tives had no share in it. The country's development was impossible under the existing neo-colonial administra-

tion system, he added citing an example that the February 27, 1991 parliamentary polls became a success because the "anti-people bureaucracy could not put its fangs on it." Professional group leaders

said that they had submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister with their demands on February 13 and hoped that the government would take specific steps in favour of the demands by March 26.

TSP Complex From Page 1 Col 7

formed that the Trisuper Phosphate (TSP) fertilizer manufacturing factory had also begun to produce Single Super Phosphate (SSP) and gypsum fertilizer since the last two years to cover losses.

The TSP Complex incurred a loss of Taka 6.85 crore in 1990-91 and Taka 16,17 crore tilizers, Islam also informed.

But with the adoption of manifold steps in production the factory had made a profit of Taka 4.85 crore in the six months July to Dec of 92-93, Islam said

The installed capacity of this factory is 1,52,000 MT.

Rape not forgivable, says AG evaporate, citizenship clings that the petitioner was staying

From Page 1 Col 4

Pointing out that rape during war occurred 'when command fails", the Court said "our fault is that we couldn't protect our women and they (the Pakistani soldiers) have raped our women behind our backs as most of our men were busy

fighting a war." On the fifth day's hearing yesterday Barrister A R Yusuf, acting on behalf of the petitioner, continued reading the split decision judgement given last year during the initial hearing of the petition by a Divisional Bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Md Ismailuddin Sarkar and Justice Badrul Islam

Choudhury. He quoted Justice Sarkar as saying "the question is whether the petitioner continues to remain so resident in Bangladesh" as he meets the

other two requirements. Barrister Yusul noted, "Justice Sarkar gave a very

strict construction."

This was in reference to Article 2 of the Bangladesh Citizenship Temporary Order (Po-149 of 1972) which sets three conditions, born in the territory now comprising Bangladesh, being a permanent resident on March 25, 1971 and continues to remain so resident, to be deemed to be a

Saying that the "law does not compel the impossible", the Court wanted to know how long a person is required to remain so resident. "It depends on the facts of each

case," the Court added. However, Barrister Yusuf contended that the "law has made it very clear that the commencement date (March 26, 1971) is the material

date". The requirement to remain permanent resident, he added. is for "one day - resident upto the commencement date of March 26, 1971." "My continuance will culminate on the

commencement day." The Court noted that this is one of the ways of looking at the matter.

To which, Barrister Yusuf said "this is the only way of looking at it." He noted that the petitioner continued to remain a permanent resident upto November 22, 1971, when he went to Pakistan "only for 10 days".

(27DLR) of Bishal Das Tiwari versus the State in which the petitioner, who was born in Bangladesh, later went to India and returned after a number of years, was charged under the Foreigners Act, Barrister Yusuf

Referring to the case

said that Justice Sarkar held that his citizenship was not at issue as he was born here in 1928 and his permanent residentship was not disputed.

Again referring to the case (33DLR) of Hamidul Hug Choudhury versus the State, in which the petitioner was treated as a citizen of Pakistan and his property declared abandoned, he added that the Court held that he was a citi zen by statutory provision and that "he continued to remain a citizen though he was away for a long time.'

Justice Sarkar, Barrister Yusul said, held that citizenship was not an issue in that

"If his (Choudhury) citizenship was not at issue then what was at issue, considering that his property was declared abandoned," asked the Counsel for the petitioner.

He went on to cite another case (34 DLR) of Mokhtar Ahmed versus the State, in which the petitioner had migrated from India, submitted an oath of allegiance to Bangladesh but later filed on application with the Red Cross to be repatriated to Pakistan.

The issue before the Court was, Barrister Yusuf noted "can his citizenship be cancelled only for applying to go to Pakistan". He added that the "Court replied in the negative as he fulfilled all three conditions (under the Temporary Order) to be deemed to be a citizen."

The Counsel for the petitioner said that the Court on that occasion held that "citizenship which he (Ahmed) acquired long before cannot

243 more Rohingyas go home

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 25: Two hundred forty-three Rohingya refugees of 61 families today voluntarily went back to their homes in Myanmar through three transit camps at Teknal here, reports BSS. This was the 29th batch of

Rohingyas repatriated to Myan-According to official sources, the total number of

stands at 21,645.

repatriated Rohingya refugees

About 13,000 refugees are awaiting repatriation in three transit camps, the sources At present there are

2,29,475 refugees in 20 camps

including those in three tran-

sit camps, the sources added.

to him and he continues" to remain so. Addressing the Court, Barrister Yusuf said 'Your

Lordship should consider this He then went to cite the example of yet another case (33 DLR) and the response of Justice Sarkar to the decisions in that case.

The case involved Abdul Huq who was born in Satkhira, was a permanent resident on March 25, 1971 and only went to Pakistan on November that year. He came back in 1976, surrendered his Pakistani passport and refused when asked to leave the country by the government.

On appeal, Barrister Yusuf said, the High Court found that he (Huq) was not a citizen of Pakistan as he surrendered the passport and as the government refused to grant him citizenship he is a stateless person and that he cannot be thrown out.

1le added that the Appellate Division, on the occasion, also extended the proviso Article 2 of the Temporary Order, which makes special provisions for students and service holders stranded in Pakistan, also to businessmen. "The temporary absence was covered by the proviso," he noted.

Justice Sarkar, the Counsel for the petitioner noted, held that the proviso of Article 2 "applies only to the two categories" mentioned.

Noting that "coincidentally" Huq and the petitioner had gone to Pakistan on the same day (November 22, 1971), Barrister Yusuf pointed out that although Huq was inside Pakistan and did not avail the repatriation process "the government did not raise the same objection against him" as with the petitioner. "So, is it (the Appellate

Division ruling) binding on me?" asked the Court. "Absolutely," Barrister Yusuf.

again. To which the Counsel of the petitioner responded in the affirmative.

"But the petitioner was not panwala and the Attorney General said that it was not a business trip but a politicomilitary mission and is not covered by the proviso of Article 2,* the Court pointed Abdul Huq was reportedly a

betel-leaf trader and had gone to Pakistan to collect some of on Tuesday.

his outstanding bills. Justice Sarkag remarked

Barrister Yusuf noted that the Temporary Order itself was "prospective in nature "So you say that the cases and by that notification (of are similar," the Court asked April 18, 1972) the petitioner's entry was blocked.". He argued that government in delegating powers can

make orders of a prospective nature and not retrospective unless that power is specifically guaranteed by the parent act. "As it involves vested rights and generally the executive organ is not given retrospective power," he added. At this point, the hearing

which began at 2 pm was adjourned at 4:15 pm. The hearing will resume at 2 pm

The four witnesses exam-

ss-examined in the Court so

The Judge, Mohammad Anseruddin Sikder, fixed March 9 as the next date of the trial.

strike

district towns on April 12 to

conference. Dr Majed said that the country's professionals had joined the anti-autocratic movement in the hope of having a modern and democratic

lic representatives. But the objective of the movement had seemingly failed since the power still remained at the hands of some bureaucrats, he said.

in 1991-92 because its products were exposed to an open competition with the subsidised privately imported fer-

The opposition in parliament yesterday lambasted the government for "harassing its opponents" and failure to heinous crime. protect life and property of the The House plunged into

people, reports UNB.

He warned that BNP cannot stay in power for long because of its arrogance and intoler-

Khan of the Treasury Bench, Tofael said that nobody was above criticism in democratic

government. Earlier, Hamidullah Khan pointed to repeated attempts by the opposition at raising out

Hamidullah.

identifying the armed men

From Page 1 Col 8 major reforms in line with changing world scenario and the reality inside the country. while the hardliners proposed sticking to Marxism-Leninism.

A senior leader of liberal

group who was present at

Thursday's meeting told The Daily Star that 10 of the 12 members present opined for of the party which would be discussed in the 75member Central Committee beginning at 10 am meeting

Muzahidul Islam Selim and Morshed Ali are opposing the reform proposal, the source Rabiul Hug of Jessore,

Ahsanullah Chowdhury of

Chittagong and Shadiullah of

Demra were absent at the meeting on Thursday. When asked whether the party would split or change the name, the two leaders belonging to two groups said

that it was too early to com-

ment on the matter.

"It may be decided at the end of the three-day Central Committee meeting," one leader said on condition of anonymity.

Party insiders said that the

reformists who outnumbered

the hardliners were campaigning for accepting a majority

Democratic Forum From Page 1 Col 8 ing committee of the organisation would then decide the date of the convention. The preparatory committee is expected to propose in its report, if the Democratic Forum could be converted into political party. The convention is likely to discuss at length

the report's proposals and incorporate those. The central body of the Forum met yesterday evening at its Segun Bagicha office to discuss today's meeting. Chaired by Dr Kamal Hossain, last night's meeting was informed that one or two leaders of the Forum's district branches and central leaders of a number of political parties

day's programme. Meeting sources said, leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Ganatantri Party. National Awami Party (NAP) and JSD factions led by Hasanul Huq Inu and Shahjahan Siraj agreed to participate in

had been invited to attend to-

the meeting. Among others, attending

yesterday's meeting, were Barrister Amirul Islam, Fazlul Halim Choudhury, Ex-VC of

Dhaka University, Fakhruddin Ahmed, former Foreign Secretary, Zillur Rahman Siddiqi, Ex-VC of Jahangirnagar University, Sagir Anwar and Ziaul

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motificel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R/A., Dhaka-1205. PABX : 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM : DAILY STAR DHAKA.

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