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Democratic Forum

fails to form

preparatory body

for convention

By Staff Correspondent

Forum has failed to form of a

preparatory committee for its

planned grand convention in

May because of the poor re-

sponse from political quarter.

convened to constitute the

committee, decided yesterday

that the body would be formed

Baily Road residence of Dr.

Kamal Hossain, convenor of

the organisation, further de-

cided that unless the prepara-

tory body was formed, the

steering committee of the

Forum would perform the

preparatory committee's du-

ties, a press statement re-

leased after yesterday's meet-

See Page 12 Col 6

The meeting held at the

and announced by March 15.

However, a Forum meeting,

Bangladesh Democratic

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Sport

Australian Captain

Allan Border be-

comes the Highest

Run Scorer in

**Test Cricket** 

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A new global giant to

rule the south?

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International

UN slams Myanmar

junta for oppression

of minorities

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Business

Dhaka-Beijing accord

to bring premier

ports closer

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Rising Stars

Sir Knobbly-knees in

the Quest of Spookdom

Castle, A Chilling

Experience, People are

Strange, Picture Quiz,

My Life as a Wooden

Pencil and Quiz Club

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Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Mushroom Gaining

Popularity but...

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**NEWS BRIEFS** 

Clinton-Yeltsin meet

in Canada likely

President Boris Yeltsin and US

President Bill Clinton are

likely to hold their April 4

summit in Canada, Interfax

news agency said today. "A

high-ranking source in the

Foreign Ministry revealed this

information to an Interfax cor-

respondent," the agency said

The Foreign Ministry was not

immediately available for

Kohl arrives

in Japan

Chancellor Helmut Kohl ar

rived in Japan today, on the

fourth leg of his five-nation tour of Asia, for talks with

Prime Minister Kitchi

Miyazawa. During his four-day

visit, Kohl is expected to urge

Japan to offer Russia aid as a

sign of support for its eco

nomic and democratic re-

forms, a topic due to be dis

cussed at July's annual summit

of the group of seven (G7) in

dustrial nations reports Reuter

Syria to convene

meeting of Arabs

said today it would convene a

meeting of Arab states in

Damascus shortly to discuss

how to relaunch the stalled

Middle East peace process and

solve the question of

Palestinian deportees, reports

Sehri, Iftar Timings

Ram | Peb | Sehri | Iftar

28 | 5 00 am | 6 06 pm

- 6.06 pm

Reuter.

BRUSSELS, Feb 26: Syria

TOKYO, Feb 26: German

comment, reports Reuter.

MOSCOW, Feb 26: Russian

**FALGOON 15, 1399 BS,** 

DHAKA SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27, 1993

## India wants to develop hydrogen bomb thorising the US military to

swering question before the John Glenn Committee of the Senate, has expressed the view that India is interested in developing the hydrogen bomb, and that India's progress in space launches is 'troubling' to the United States, reports PTI.

The senate committee chairman John Glenn said, 'almost four years ago, one of your predecessors. Judge Webster, testified before this committee that the intelli- stitution for nuclear research gence committee had 'indications that tell US that signed and produced the de-

"Do you share that assessment ? Is that still valid today? And what are the indicators?

Woolsey replied, "I believe Judge Webster's comment is, unfortunately, still valid. India's Bhaba Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has shown an interest in materials that are necessary for the development of thermonuclear as distinct from just

BARC is India's leading inand development, and it de10 Soviet N-subs met accidents

#### Chittagong turns into Clinton orders food aid for smugglers' paradise Bosnians

RAMADAN 4, 1413 HIJRI

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Feb 26: Country's major port city, Chittagong, has now turned into a paradise of smugglers because of its vulnerability to influx of contraband foreign goods through air, land and sea

routes, informed sources said. According to sources, hardly any day or night passes without the entry of large consignments of contraband items, particularly Indian textile products, drugs and other foreign goods including costly cigarettes, electronic goods and gold.

The flow of smuggled goods mainly gold and Indian-made sarecs and other clothes, rose with the advent of the month of Ramzan, market sources

As a result, most of the city markets here including Mini Supermarket, Reazuddin Bazar, New Market, Highway Plaza, Terribazar and Agrabad "Singapur Market", have been flooded with contraband forcign goods that put the countrymade products into a stiff competition, sources added.

The sources attributed the influx of contrabands and large scale availability of those in the markets here to the lax security at the entry points of the city mainly Chittagong Airport, Chittagong sea port, Pahartoli and Kalurghat checkposts besides passivity of anti-smuggling task force and poor drives by different government bodies assigned to check the

smuggling. According to sources, the alleged smugglers and their kingpins here run open busi-See Page 12 Col 7

# Diarrhoea claims 840 lives in two months

By Staff Correspondent

Split in CPB looks

inevitable

By Staff Correspondent

Manik.

meeting.

Diarrhoea epidemic has claimed some 840 lives in less than two months in seven southern districts, while the disease spread to the capital and nearby Narayanganj district, health officials said Friday

The figure included two more deaths on Thursday in Pirojpur, four each in Bhola and Khulna, and one each in Patuakhali and Jhalokathi on the same day when 480 people were hospitalised in different hospitals in the capital, an official of the DG (Health) Control

Room said. The highest number of 237 deaths were reported from Pirojpur district followed by Barguna 163. Bagerhat 136. Patuakhali 126, Jhalokathi 62, Bhola 61, and Khulna 54, since the disease broke out in

January, the official said. The unofficial death figure is much higher than the official record.

The split in the Communist

Party of Bangladesh (CPB)

looks inevitable as the hardlin-

ers took a firm stand in favour

of communism Friday at the

opening day of the three-day

Central Committee meeting,

no right to dissolve the party,

the communists (in Bang-

ladesh) will remain as

communist," Mujahidul Islam

Selim, a hardliner, told the

committee members. He said

"we still believe that commu-

nism has relevance to human

welfare." But his opponents

said, "It is irrelevant in the

world perspective as well as in

written statement signed by

12 other members of his side.

Central Committee were pre-

sent at the first day of the

Sarwar Ali and Shekhar Datta

spoke in favour of their stand

on the issue while Nurul Islam

Nahid submitted his report as

the General Secretary. The

Earlier, Selim submitted a

Fifty-four of the 75-member

Ajoy Roy, Shamsuddoha, Dr

"The Central Committee has

party sources said.

Bangladesh.

meeting.

So far 43,352 people were ill in these districts, according to official statistics.

No death was reported from any part of the capital since the Control Room started monitoring the situation from February 15 but a total of 4,107 sick were treated in ICDDRB, PG Hospital, Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Midford Hospital.

One mobile medical team was also working in the capital's worst affected Sabujbagh, Sutrapur, Lalbagh, Mottjheel and Kotwali thana areas. In Narayanganj town one

died of the disease on Thursday while a total 572 people fell sick since mid February. The Control Room source

said that more than 500 medical teams have been working round the clock in seven southern districts.

See Page 12 Col 8

meeting was chaired by party

president Saifuddin Ahmed

moderates refuted Selim's

contention and said that com-

munism had failed to reach its

goal and the party has to

"Our politics is aimed at

people's welfare, so we have to

find out ways and means in

this regard," a moderate mem-

ber was quoted as saying in the

should accept majority deci-

He also said that they

The transformists also sug-

gested to form a new party in

alliance with NAP, Ganatantri

Party and Democratic Forum of

Dr Kamal Hossain, as the third

The two contrasting pro-

posals may be put on vote at

the end of the meeting after

the explanations from the

members who submitted doc-

uments before the Central

Observers say, it is almost

certain that the proposal for

See Page 12 Col 8

force in the country.

Committee.

search for new ways.

On the other hand the

Health officials said that

#### Hasina protests dismissal of Waliur, Mohiuddin Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina

yesterday protested dismissal of Bangladesh Ambassador in Italy Waltur Rahman and acting permanent representative in the United Nations Mohiuddin Ahmed, reports In a statement, she said the freedom fighters who are

in the service in Bangladesh foreign missions are being sacked while killers of Bangabandhu - Mohiuddin. Major Nur Chowdhury and Major Shariful Islam Dalim were elevated to the post of ambassadors by the present government.

Hasina said the anti-liberation Jamaat-Shibir elements have raised their ugly heads because of anti-liberation character of ruling BNP.

She said freedom fighters of 1974 Liberation War are being neglected while Rajakars and Al-badrs were rewarded. It was Ziaur Rahman who rehabil itated Jamaat-Shibir, Rajakar-Albadr politically and Begum Zia is patronising these evil forces following the footprints of her husband.

#### BCU denies relation with CPB

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) Friday said the organisation had no connection with the Communist Party of Bang-

ladesh (CPB). "It is not a front organisation of any political party, a BCU press release said.

Referring to a report published in The Daily Star on Friday, Ruhin Hossain Prince and Sajjad Zahir, President and General Secretary respectively said in a statement that

"BCU is an independent student organisation. As it was not a front organisation of any political party, so the question of holding demonstration during the cen-

ment said. The BCU leaders urged to refrain from publishing such

tral committee meeting of the

CPB, does not arise, the state-

#### Jhenidah civil surgeon office ransacked

JHENIDAH, Feb 26: Health service examination candidates ransacked the Civil Surgeon office here today and blocked the Jhenidah-Jessore road protesting the shifting of their examination date, reports

The examination scheduled for today was declared postponed by the authorities on Thursday through miking without prior notification. The date for the test for 24 vacant posts was earlier deferred from February 19.

Witnesses said about 900 candidates, who came to the town from across the country to compete for 24 vacant posts, went berserk at the sudden announcement, ransacked the Civil Surgeon office and blocked the road for about an hour.

Deputy Commissioner of the district rushed to the spot and appeased the unruly candidates assuring them of early holding of the competitive

CIA director says Inside Today -

# monuclear weapons capability." WASHINGTON, Feb 26: CIA director James Woolsey, an-

India is interested in ther- vice for the 1974 test.

nuclear weapons.

# during Cold War'

MOSCOW, Feb 26: At least 10 Soviet nuclear submarines suffered serious reactor accidents during the Cold War, the environmental group Greenpeace said in a report released Friday, reports AP.

"With at least eight sinkings or reactor meltdowns, Soviet nuclear submarines were at times as much a threat to Sovict sailors and to the

Sec Page 12 Col 6

plies into Bosnia. Related Story on Page 5

WASHINGTON, Feb 26:

President Bill Clinton today

signed an executive order au-

carry out parachute drops of

food and medicine into Bosnia,

the Desence Department said,

order this morning," said army

major Bryan Whitman, a Pen-

asked not to be identified, said

the dropping of hundreds of

thousands of leaslets into

Bosnia could begin as early as

Friday night to inform people

that humanitarian aid was on

Thursday that he had decided

to order unarmed US air force

cargo planes to drop food,

medicine and other relief sup-

Clinton announced on

"The President signed the

Other Defence officials, who

reports Reuter.

tagon spokesman.

the way.

### Rhinos drawing more visitors in Mirpur Zoo

by Sharier Khan

Children and their parents are thronging the Dhaka Zoo in Mirpur to see its two new little but heavy-weight guests - a rhino couple. The rhinos, one eight

months old male and the other

a six months old female arrived at the zoo on February 14 as a gift from Nepal. The zoo authority has put

them near the elephant shelter in the zoo but the couple is being separated a by a wall. The rhinos were captured

from two different forests in Nepal," the Dhaka Zoo curator informed," they do not know each other. Which means they may fight a bloody battle at the first meeting." The herbivorous creatures,

although flerce in nature, have been calm and friendly so far, the curator observed.

They do not mind to be touched by human beings," he

See Page 12 Col 3

# Angry BJP MPs disrupt Parliament session

A keeper patting a rhino yearling, one of the two, gifted by Nepal to the Mirpur Zoo in Dhaka.

NEW DELIII, Feb 26: Angry members of a Hindu nationalist party disrupted Parliament Friday to condemn a massive police crackdown that thwarted their anti-government rally in the capital, reports AP.

Firing tear gas and water cannons, riot police prevented tens of thousands of Hindu nationalists from assembling near Parliament Thursday to hold the rally, called by the rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party

At least 88 people were injured and more than 2,800 people were arrested. Most of them were released later without charges being filed.

"What New Delhi witnessed yesterday was the most exceptional assault on the citizens of the state," Jaswant Singh, a senior leader of the Bharattya Janata Party told reporters.

"We cannot be cowed down by sticks and bullets," said Atal Behari Vajpayee, another senior party leader.

Thousands of armed policemen who had taken over the streets returned to their barracks on Friday, and the razor-edged wires and steel barricades scaling the area around Parliament were dismantled.

Other parts of the capital also returned to normal Friday. a day after a virtual siege was laid by protesters trying to march toward Parliament and the policemen holding them back throughout the day.

Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's government had pledged to prevent the rally, saying a large assembly of Hindu nationalists could reignite Hindu-Muslim riots that have already killed at least 1,940 people since December.

The riots started after BJP supporters destroyed a Muslim mosque in the northern town

Most national newspapers praised the ban on the rally, and in editorials on Friday. supported the police crack

"All this has been a small

frenzied activists (of BJP) pouring into New Delhi and creating mayhem," the English language Pioneer newspaper

"After the bitter experience at Ayodhya ... no sane government could be expected to take the risk of the night mare being repeated in the capital," the independent

In Parliament, both houses of the legislature adjourned in chaos after screaming Bharatiya Janata lawmakers insisted on an apology by the government.

Two of them rushed in front of the Speaker's podium in the lower house carrying tear gas shells fired at Congress Party.

maker hobbled in wearing a cast on his leg.

When nothing could be heard in the chaos and the BJP members refused to calm down, business was suspended See Page 12 Col 8

#### Zairean troops lift siege of parliament

KINSHASA, Feb 26: Zairean troops today lifted a three-day siege of their country's interim parliament, saying legislators now understood soldiers' pay grievances, reports Reuter.

Witnesses said armoured vehicles and infantry left the makeshift parliament building where they had imprisoned some 1000 legislators and staff in a row over banknotes, and politicians emerged to cheer from civilian onlookers.

[Earlier Story on Page 5]

#### UNITA's absence delays Angolan peace talks

LUANDA, Feb 26: Angolan peace talks due to start in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital today, were delayed by the non-arrival of the rebel UNITA delegation, and Angolan government spokesman said, reports Reuter.

"The meeting has not yet begun because UNITA has not arrived," General Higino Carnetro, spokesman for the government delegation, said on Angolan state-run radio.

See Page 12 Col 5

#### of Ayodhya on December 6. demonstrators Thursday, and got into a shouting match with The violence ebbed last month, but tension between legislators of the governing Hindus and Muslims are still In the upper house, a law-

price to pay for preventing

The jute industries are not being able to utilise their op timum capacity because of the fall of demand of jute goods in the international market, they said, adding that the demand

would fall further in future. According to statistics, nearly 4000 looms of the jute

interest of the country saying that if the jute mills could be modernised and proper attention given to the sector, reduction of demand would not be a problem. The demand of jute goods production capacity of the in the international market was 17 lakh ton per year in the

Crisis in jute sector-III mid-60s which reduced to 9

because of the crisis. The BMRE [Balancing, Modernising, Rchabilitation and Expansion) of the mills also hits snag often because of the same crisis resulting in lower mills, he said, adding that if there was no such crisis the entrepreneurs could try to improve the quality of their products to face the competitive international market. "If I had no liquidity crisis in running my own mill.

would set up a mini power plant to face loadshedding. Momenur Rahman said describing power disruption as one of the vital problem for the industrial sector. One of the major problems

facing the spinning mills is the delay in disbursing subsidy. which has been granted the See Page 12 Col 4

#### Kim names 3 teachers as ROK ministers Lee Kyong-shik, President SEOUL, Feb 26: President

Kim Young-sam in a surprisc move today named three university professors to serve as South Korea's Unification Board Minister, Foreign Minister and National Intel ligence Chief, a spokesman said, reports AFP. Han Wan sang, a Scoul

National University Professor. was named Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the National Unification Board, while Han Song-joo, a Korea University Political Science Professor, was named Foreign Minister.

Korea Foreign Language School, was named to head the National Security Planning Agency. The National Intelligence Agency Kim has promised to reform.

to serve as Deputy Prime Minister heading the Economic Planning Board. Kim was inaugurated

Thursday a South Korea's first civilian President in more than

named Defence Minister. The spokesman, speaking

in a televised news conference, quoted Kim as saying he had made an effort to pick people from all walks of life and from all regions of the country to serve in his first cabinet and had given 'special consideration" to choosing

See Page 12 Col 5

#### Acute liquidity crisis cripples industries By Inam Ahmed and Sohel Manzur prescription as against the tute in time and in low price jute sector to a great extent. Acute liquidity crists, labour

unrest and under-utilisation of production capacity have been identified by the BJMC officials and entrepreneurs of jute sector as the major problems of the yarn and jute goods producing mills of the country They also viewed that lack

of adequate government patronisation in terms of incentives and financial facilities further aggravated the problems. They said the problems were mainly causing undesir able increase in the cost of

production of jute goods allow

ing other jute exporting coun-

tries to capture the international market. Frequent power disruption, excess manpower, fixation of minimum wages for the labour, high bank interest rate, lack of expertise and poor local consumption of jute goods are the other problems that hit the

mills out of the total 25,864 are remaining idle because of the fall in demand. The World Bank has already told the gov ernment to close down 13 jute mills out of the total 64, so that the remaining units could utilise their maximum capacity to meet the reduced demand. Officials at BUMC (Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation),

however, termed the WB

lakh ton at present. The capac ity of the country's jute mills is, however, 8 lakh ton, including 5 lakh ton of the BUMC

"Liquidity crisis makes a jute mill non-viable in many ways", commenting this BJMA General Secretary Momenur Rahman said the entrepreneurs could not purchase raw

Kim Deuk, a Professor at

# of Korea Gas Corp. was tapped

three decades, replacing Roh Tae-woo, a former army gen-Kwon Young-hae, a former Deputy Defence Minister, was