

# Hasina's allegation sparks debate

From Page 1 Col 5  
 An Awami League allegation that the BNP government appointed Dalim High Commissioner to Kenya and said that it was the Ershad government, not the BNP one, that promoted them to the post of joint secretary and appointed Dalim under the rules of Bangladesh Civil Service, High Commissioner to Kenya.  
 The Foreign Minister also said that when the appointment was made by the Ershad government, there was a parliament in the country and that the present leader of the Opposition had held the same post in that Parliament.  
 Sheikh Hasina, referring to the Foreign Minister's statement said that she had protested passage of all bad laws by the Jatiya Party in that Parliament.  
 Sheikh Hasina, however, added that the BNP was passing anti-people laws in the present Parliament and the Opposition was protesting passage of the black laws. "One cannot blame the Opposition for the making of black laws by the BNP", Hasina added.  
 Hasina said that the "self-confessed" killers of the "Bangabandhu" were called back by the BNP government from their jobs in the foreign missions and some of them left the country later. But it was Ershad who rehabilitated them. When Ziaur Rahman was killed, she said, speculations were rife that the Dalim group could be behind his assassination.

## Corruption case filed against ex-CCC mayor, 16 others

CHITTAGONG, Mar 3: Chittagong Regional Anti-Corruption Bureau today filed a case with Kotwali Police Station against former Chittagong City Corporation Mayor Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury, Chief Engineer Dipakkanti Boddya and 15 others for misappropriation of about Taka 64 lakh while executing Chaktai Canal Re-excavation Scheme during the year 1988-89, reports BSS.  
 According to an official source here today, an amount of Taka 63, 68, 476/58 was allegedly paid to three contractors without work. A false statement on re-excavation of Chaktai Canal was recorded and payment made in this connection, it was alleged.  
 Of the 17 persons implicated in the case, three are contractors.  
**Draft accord to end war in Afghanistan**  
 ISLAMABAD, Mar 3: Afghanistan's president and main factional leader met Wednesday for the first time since the Communist government fell. They ironed out a draft agreement for ending the battle for control of their homeland, reports AP.

# Focus on Bajitpur

From Page 1 Col 5  
 confidence in the district administration and the local police.  
 "The real fishermen have been barred from fishing in the local rivers, haors and beels."  
 "Their access to fishing has been taken away as the moneyed mahajans (money lenders) control the economically feeble and disorganised fishermen's cooperative societies."  
 Now, musclemen of the mahajans and fake leasees patrol the rivers and the haors in mechanised boats in the day beam powerful flashlights on the riverbank houses at night threaten the fishermen not to come out, villagers reported.  
 They said that some of the fishermen belonging to the Hindu community have been told to leave the country by the mahajans' henchmen.  
 Anyone found bathing in the Ghora-Ultra river will be heavily fined, hoodlums, who are non-locals, reportedly yell.  
 The nearest police station, Bajitpur Thana, and a temporary police camp is far away from these people.  
 However, the Assistant Police Superintendent of Bajitpur described the situation in the area "good and under control."  
 Bengla-Charabhadra "Jalmohal" is a 2,400-acre waterbody located between the three unions. The closed waterbody earns more than Taka eight lakh a year as revenue for the government. But because of leasing, none other than the 120-member Reformed Nauhata Matsyajibi Samabay Sanity can fish in it.  
 The Ghora-Ultra river, linked to the closed waterbody, is divided into several segments and leased to other societies.  
 Earlier, people from 15 villages used to earn their bread from the river and Bengla-Charabhadra.  
 The fishermen of the locality say that the government should not lease out the open waterbody for money.  
 Khagendra Das (25) of Karmar-Bauli village still lives with the marks of bullets that pierced his left shoulder and a wrist.  
 The bullets were sprayed on a crowd of fishermen near the mouth of Bengla-Charabhadra December 28 last year, by the armed guards of the Ijaradar when the people tried to stop them from taking away fish.  
 Sanjib Das of the nearby Kachukhola village was shot dead and 30 more received bullet wounds in the incident.  
 The shoot-out took place in presence of a contingent of patrol police.  
 A noisy demonstration by the fishermen for several days at Bajitpur and at Kishoreganj towns followed the incident. It was quelled by the district authorities.  
 An adult mosquito can fly nearly two kilometers against the wind, he added.  
 If the responsibility was given fully to the City Corporation, the Mayor said that he would enhance the budget from Taka one crore and take up a massive programme to check the menace.  
**100 houses**  
 From Page 1 Col 5  
 College Hospital with burn injuries, our DMCH correspondent reports.  
 Both Lalbagh police and firemen were continuing rescue operation last night. But they did not recover any body from the ruins, police said last night.  
 A total of 19 units from different fire stations in the city went to the spot, the sources said.  
 Firemen said that they failed to reach the spot immediately because of narrow and congested streets in the area. They had to use engine and speed boats during the operation, they added.  
 Cause of the fire or the estimated loss could not be ascertained immediately, both police and fire service sources said.  
 Meanwhile, our Narayanganj Correspondent last night informed over telephone that an incident of fire was reported by the Mondolpara fire service and Fatullah PS at Narayanganj Pagla Bazar at around 12-15 am last night.  
 No details were available.

not like to rake up old coals.  
 Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury refuted Sheikh Hasina's remark that he encouraged terrorism and said this could be correct for those who made such accusations.  
 "At times we caught male terrorists coming out from a particular house under the veneer of 'borkha', he said.  
 When the Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda requested Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali to give him the floor at this stage, the Speaker did not do so saying that he (Nazmul) could not have the floor on that occasion as Hasina's statement had not affected either him or his ministry.  
 Nazmul Huda then argued that as Information Minister, he was the spokesman of the government on internal matters and that he needed the floor to set the record straight.  
 The Speaker, however, allowed the Minister to speak under Rule 300 of the Rules of Procedure that provides a minister with the scope to address the House on a matter of public interest.  
 The Information Minister said, the Leader of the Opposition's observation that many 'anti-people' laws were being passed in the House because of majority of the ruling party was ridiculous.  
 Laws were passed in the House under the rules laid in both the Constitution of the country and Rules of Procedure in Parliament, the Minister said adding "It was natural that laws would be passed in the House by the majority group in Parliament that is the representative of the majority of the people."  
 Hasina's comment was a contempt of the House, the Minister observed.  
 Huda also referred to Sheikh Hasina's observation that the BNP had come to power due to the movement by the Awami League and made it clear that the anti-Ershad and pro-democracy movement reached the pinnacle of success only under the leadership of "uncompromising" Begum Khaleda Zia.  
 People knew who had betrayed them in 1986 and joined elections under a plan to form the 1986 parliament, he said.  
 The Information Minister said it was expected that the opposition would play a constructive role in the House rather than resort to undemocratic and unparliamentary practices. He urged them to come out with a constructive role for the greater good of the nation.  
 Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party, taking the floor, contested the claims of both the AL and the BNP that the fall of the autocratic regime of Ershad was possible due to the struggle of their respective parties.  
 Tofael Ahmed said if laws passed by majority were good then one should not have objections to formation of BAKSAL which was passed in the House unanimously.  
 He said the present Parliament was the outcome of a movement by three alliances.  
 Moudud Ahmed in his brief remark wanted to know from when the Information Minister had been designated as the spokesman of the government.  
 BNP member Mashur Rahman said it was the Opposition that patronised terrorism.

## Diarrhoea germ

From Page 1 Col 7  
 More than 300 patients are arriving every day at his 180-bed diarrhoea section of the hospital where treatment and research is funded by international donors.  
 This rate is almost double the daily patients the hospital treated during the peak diarrhoea season in April last year. To cope with the situation the hospital has placed additional beds and pitched two tents outside its wards.  
 Those who make it to the hospital and other general medical centers are safe. Nargis Akthar, a teenaged school girl, was one of them. After bouts of severe stomach upsets and vomiting Tuesday night Akthar's parents brought her to the hospital at dawn from Narayanganj.  
 "When I arrived here I was too weak to talk. Now I feel much better," said the girl after hours of intravenous saline she was given in a makeshift tent ward.  
 "According to Salam none of more than 10,000 patients treated at his hospital had died. Health Ministry doctors also reported no deaths in Dhaka.  
 This means the deaths are occurring in 10 other affected districts in southern Bangladesh where river water is used for drinking and washing.  
 Nearly 3,000 doctors and health workers have fanned out in the affected districts who treat the patients with both intravenous and oral salines.  
 But there is no immediate indication that the epidemic is subsiding. The Diarrhoea Control Room is still reporting an average of 10 deaths a day, all from the rural districts.

## Musclemen attack yarn merchants: Ten injured

From Our Correspondent  
 NARAYANGANJ, Mar 3: Ten persons were injured in an hour-long clash between the yarn merchants' men and a group of armed musclemen in Tanbazar area here.  
 Among them, two yarn workers were admitted to the Narayanganj Sadar Hospital in serious condition. They are: Ayan Ali, 40, and Montu, 30.  
 The clash took place at around 12.30 pm, when the musclemen suddenly launched the attack on the yarn merchants with sharp weapons, rod and cocktails.  
 The Bangladesh Yarn Merchants' Association blamed some transport owners for the attack.

## Pawar becomes Maharashtra Chief Minister

NEW DELHI, Mar 3: The Defence Minister, Sharad Pawar, will be the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao announced today ending three week long crisis that rocked the Congress-I in the state, reports PTI.  
 Pawar has accepted Rao's decision and goes back to Maharashtra to lead the state for the third time succeeding his protegee turned rebel, Sridhakar Rao Naik, who resigned on February 22.

## Azam's conduct cost his citizenship

From Page 1 Col 4  
 previous law, while citing Gray's interpretation of statutes.  
 At this, the court observed, "it is rather sweeping, I am not satisfied."  
 Barrister Yusuf pointed out that the petitioners' vested rights were not taken away by Po-149 but by the impugned notification issued by the government.  
 The Attorney General noted that although Lt General Khawza Wasiuddin is a Bangladeshi citizen, would his son, who is a Pakistani citizen and serving in that country's Army, be also considered a citizen of Bangladesh.  
 The court agreed saying that although Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister of the Indian state of West Bengal, was born in Bangladesh he could not be considered as a citizen of Bangladesh.  
 "By implication you cannot take away vested rights, law must speak in the same language as systematic behaviour of law is rule of law," the court observed.  
 Barrister Yusuf submitted that the petitioner became a citizen with the adaptation of the Bangladesh Citizenship Act of 1951 through the Mujibnagar declaration in April 1971.  
 The court noted that if all others could become citizens through the adaptation of the law then why not the petitioner. "But due to his actions he was disqualified (to be a citizen), the Attorney General is laying emphasis on the conduct of the petitioner," Justice Choudhury added.  
 Attorney General Aminul Haque concurred. "My whole argument was based on conduct (of the petitioner) but unfortunately both judges skipped it."  
 The Judges discarded the argument saying that the documents were not applicable. The Attorney General added that he had new documents that he would present at the hearing.  
 Terming it as a "serious judgement," the court noted that Justice Sarkar said that the petitioner was not a collaborator and that Article 2 (b), which deals with disqualification of the Temporary Order cannot be used as it was incorporated after the impugned notification was issued to the petitioner.  
 To which, the Attorney General replied that he would still stick to the conduct of the petitioner even if he cannot take recourse to Article 2 (b).  
 Barrister Yusuf noted that Justice Sarkar made a "positive" finding that except the gazette notification (Po-8) issued to the petitioner on collaboration charges in July 1972, all other documents presented were subsequent to issuing of the impugned notification in 1973.  
 "Except for hobnobbing with the military junta, we do not find anything to suggest that the petitioner had anything to do with the atrocities," he quoted Justice Sarkar as saying in his judgement.  
 The Attorney General interjected saying "what is the meaning of hobnobbing? It means allied with the military junta."  
 The counsel for the petitioner noted that the two judges did not differ on the point of conduct of the petitioner and that the third judge's jurisdiction arose upon a point of difference.  
 "My judgement may not go anywhere near that of the two judges, I may take a new direction," Justice Choudhury observed.  
 The case is important, not because of Golam Azam, but because it is a landmark case and the decision would have far-reaching impact, he noted.  
 Barrister Yusuf noted that on May 22, 1972, in reference to the Mujibnagar declaration of April 10, 1971, through the Presidential Order-48 all existing laws on March 26, 1971 were adopted.  
 "All became citizen through adaptation first by operation of the Citizenship Act of 1951, so no other retrospective law can take away the vested right," he added.  
 The court pointed out that Justice Sarkar held that the petitioner did not continue to be "so resident" as required under the conditions of Article 2 of the Temporary Order.  
 "And continue to be 'so resident' may have caught the petitioner on the wrong foot," the court noted.  
 The court further noted that the Attorney General was saying that because the peti-



Nirmul Samannay Committee brought out a procession in city yesterday demanding implementation of 'people's court' verdict on Golam Azam and ban on Jamat-Shibir politics. — Star photo

## Nirmul programmes

From Page 1 Col 6  
 his trial as a war criminal," she said and added that the movement of the people would continue unless the demands were fulfilled.  
 Demanding ban on the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing, Jahanara Imam said Jamaat had violated the Constitution by electing Golam Azam as Amir of the party.  
 "We are launching the movement to pressurise the government to fulfil the demands and the movement would intensify further," she urged all to unite on the issue.  
 The silent procession led by Jahanara Imam was participated among other by Awami League leaders Abdur Razzak MP, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, CPB leader Nurul Islam Nahid, General Secretary of Ganatantri Party Mohammad Afzal, Hasan Imam, Shahriar Kabir, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Mirza Sultan Raja, Sheikh Asad, Habibur Rahman Khan and Advocate Mojibur Rahman.

## Nine more die of diarrhoea in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent  
 BARISAL, Mar 3: Nine more people died of diarrhoea on Wednesday in six districts of newly established Barisal Division where the situation was aggravating, officials said.  
 Four of them died in Jhalokathi, two each in Barisal and Patuakhali and one in Bhola, officials at Director General (Health) Office told The Daily Star, adding that more than 700 people fell sick in the last 24 hours.

## Friends International Limited; Saich Carpet Mills, Chittagong; Envoy Group; Core the Jute Works; Lasoco Limited, Konexpo; NR Netting Mills; Karim Leathers.

The Prime Minister congratulated the trophy recipient exporters and said this recognition would help create constructive and fair competition among all concerned and contribute to the expansion of export trade.  
 Colonial rule and exploitation are the main reasons for making the country import-dependent, Begum Zia said laying stress on achieving speedy economic development to take the country out of import-dependency.  
 The Prime Minister said her government had identified export as the key to country's progress and prosperity.  
 She said the government had formulated export promotion strategy for the year 1992-2000 to remove bottlenecks on way to exports.  
 Expansion of cooperation in the field of export, increase of institutional facilities, providing infrastructure assistance and human resources development and structure expansion have been given proper importance in the strategy, the Prime Minister said.  
 She said a national committee headed by the Prime Minister will be constituted to review progress of export at the highest level and to give necessary guidelines.  
 Begum Zia urged the exporters and producers to utilise the facilities provided in the export promotion strategy. She said the government would also consider the advice and recommendations of the private sectors in increasing the export.  
 Begum Zia said despite world-wide recession the country's export earnings have

# The Midnight File

## Somali warring factions declare arms to truce body

MOGADISHU, Mar 3: Somalia's warring factions have declared their weaponry and personnel to a joint US-UN ceasefire committee but it will probably take much longer than originally planned to disarm them. The 15 factions were complying with a Tuesday deadline given a month ago by Lieutenant-General Robert Johnston, Commander of US forces in the country, reports Reuter.

## Indian farmers protest GATT moves on agriculture

NEW DELHI, Mar 3: Tens of thousands of Indian farmers, some driving tractors and pickup trucks and waving flags, held a rally here today to denounce General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) moves on agriculture. It was the first major show of strength in predominantly agricultural India against GATT Secretary-General Arthur Dunkel's compromise plan to save the Uruguay Round of trade talks, reports AFP.

# PM: Raise export

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**Editor : S. M. Ali**  
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