The Midnight Eile

Somali warring factions

declare arms to truce body

clared their weaponry and personnel to a joint US-UN cease-

fire 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

Indian farmers protest GATT

moves on agriculture

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 com-

promise plan to save the Uruguay Round of trade talks, re-

NEW DELHI, Mar 3: Tens of thousands of Indian farmers,

MOGADISHU, Mar 3: Somalia's warring factions have de-

Hasina's allegation sparks debate being passed in the House be-

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 by the dint of its majority, 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 "selfconfessed" 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 assassina-

"I fail to understand how the BNP government could promote those people" she said, and asked "Has the BNP government taken the responsibility to legalise what Ershad has done?"

The Al. chief Hasina also claimed that the BNP went to state power at the cost of her party's struggle against the autocratic regime of Ershad.

She, also accused the Home Minister Matin Chowdhury of patronising terrorists and mas terminding all the terrorist activities in the city.

The acting Deputy Leader of the House Majidul Hug strongly disputed the opinion of the Leader of the Opposition and said that the government servants under no circumstances could toe the BNP line as politics is prohibited for them under the rules.

He said government servants could not do politics be it either BNP or Awami League— as long as the rules remained unchanged.

He said such charges by the Leader of the Opposition that the government liked only those who supported the BNP line were not only devoid of truth but also unfortunate. He said he could refer to

many bitter issues but would

not like to rake up old coals. Home Minister Abdul Mattn Chowdhury refuted Sheikh Hasina's remark that he encouraged terrorism and said this could be correct for those

"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 Shatkh 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 min-

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

Corruption case filed against ex-CCC mayor, 16 others

CHITTAGONG, Mar 3 Chittagong Regional Anti-corruption Bureau today field 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-exacavation 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.

who made such accusations.

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.'

cause of majority of the ruling

party was ridiculous.

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 inovement by the Awami League and made it elear 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,

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

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 re-

spective parties. Tofael Ahmed said if laws passed by majority were good then one should not have obections 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 Mashiur Rahman said it was the Opposition

that patronised terrorism. Mosquito

From Page 1 Col 8 independently to eradicate

After that the responsibility was given to the City Corpor ation but the Department remained an independent body with some 400 workforce.

The DCC cannot take any punitive action against the delinquent workers as they belong to a separate department.

The Mayor said that he had informed the concerned ministry about the situation, and that either the Corporation or the Mosquito Department would have to take the re-

A secretary-level meeting Wednesday reviewed the situation and the Cooperatives Minister will held a meeting March 8 to take a decision in this regard

Abbas said that the DCC had sufficient equipment and insecticides but that the drive failed to yield results because the medicine was not properly sprayed by the field workers.

"It is not possible to control mosquitoes without spraying the thousands of ditches and drains that dot the capital, breeding mosquitoes every moment," he said.

Moreover, the mosquitoes are coming from paddy fields, derelict ponds and marshlands in the outskirts of the city, not, under the control of the City Corporation.

> 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

A total of 19 units from different fire stations in the city went to the spot, the sources

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

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 Narayangani Pagla Bazar at around 12-15

am last night. No details were available.



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

Diarrhoea germ

From Page 1 Col 7 More than 300 patients are arriving every day at his 180bed 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 sale. 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 Narayangani

"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.

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-l 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 protege turned rebel, Surdhakar Rao Naik, who resigned on February 22.

"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

But there is no immediate indication that the epidemic is subsiding. The Diarrhoca 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 yearn workers were admitted to the Narayangani Sadar Hospital in serious condition. They are: Ayen 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

Nirmul programmes

From Page 1 Col 6 his trial as a war criminal," she

Demanding ban on the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing. Jahanara Imam

"We are launching the movement to pressurise the government to fulfil the demands and the movement would intensify further," she

Jahanara Imam was participated among other by Awami League leaders Abdur Razzak MP, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, CPB leader Nurul Islam Nahid, General Sccretary of Ganatantri Party Mohammad Afzal, Hasan Imam Shahrier Kabir, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Mirza Sultan Raja, Sheikh Asad, Habibur 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

General (Health) Office told The Daily Star, adding that more than 700 people fell sick in the last 24 hours.

said and added that the movement of the people would continue unless the demands were fulfilled.

said Jamaat had violated the Constitution by electing Golam

Azam as Amir of the party.

urged all to unite on the issue. The stlent procession led by Khan and Advocate Mojibur

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

Azam's conduct cost his citizenship tioner had been a "persona non ing the export. grata, conduct would be an

Begum Zia said despite identified computer, toys and world-wide recession the

PM: Raise export

From Page 1 Col 4

forces in the country, reports Reuter.

Friends International Limited: Saleh Carpet Mills, Chittagong; Envoy Group; Core the Jute Works; Lasoco Limited, Konexpo; NR Netting Mills;

ports AFP

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 ex-

port trace. Colonial rule and exploitation are the main reasons for making the country importdependent, Begum Zia said laying stress on achieving speedy economic development to take the country out of import-de-

pendency. 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 bottle-

necks 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 expert promotion strategy. She said the government would also consider the advices and recommendations of the private sectors in increas-

been increasing and the foreign exchange reserve is now

at the highest. But there still exists much handicaps in the country's import-export trade balance, the Prime Minister said adding it is now urgently needed to earn foreign exchange by boosting

up export. Referring to the introduction of free-market economy, enhanced facilities both for the local and foreign investors and reconstitution of the investment board she said interests

for investment have increased. The Prime Minister said two more export processing zones will be set up in Dhaka and Khulna and the Export Promotion Bureau will be

strengthened and organised. "What we need now is peace and stability", Begum Zia said and called for increasing productivity and taking development efforts.

set up new textile mills in the country so that quality clothes can be produced to use in the ready-made garments. The use of local clothes will

The Prime Minister said

the government has decided to

be encouraged in the export and the use of locally-produced clothes will not be involved with the quota, she said Begum Zia said 54 per cent export earnings come from the

added this sector has created employment opportunities for a large number of women. The Prime Minister said a cabinet sub-committee has

ready-made garments and

been formed headed by the Minister for Industries to take up realistic programmes for increasing shrimp export. She said there is bright possibilities of boosting up ex-

port carning in frozen food sector through increased shrimp culture. The government has also

leather products for exports. country's export earnings have the Prime Minister said



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It is hereby notified for re-information of the esteemed domestic consumers of the company that the consumers of the residences connected with meters may pay the gas bill either on the basis of meter reading or at fixed monthly rate on the basis of stove/ accessories. That is the consumer may opt for any of the two systems. However, this should be informed, in writing, to the concerned Zone Office/Zonal Distribution Office of the company. And this option cannot be changed later on.

After a consumer opting for payment of bill at fixed monthly rate, the company authority will arrange for removing the meter from his/her residence. If the company is not informed in writing to remove the meter, then the responsibility of the meter installed at the consumer's premise will rest with the consumer and any theft of or damage to it will be compensated by him/her.

If necessary, the concerned office of the company may be contacted in this connection. It is notified for re-information of the esteemed consumers that if the bill of each month is not paid by the 21st day of the next month, surcharge has to be paid and if the bill is not paid within 45 days of the date, the line will be disconnected without any notice.

Gas is not inexhaustible. Turn off your gas stove as soon as you finish your cooking. Timely payment of gas bill and good use & conservation of gas is a national duty for all of us.

> ''গাছ লাগান; গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান" - প্রধানমন্ত্রী

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Focus on Bajitpur

From Page 1 Col 5 confidence in the district administration and the local po-

*The real fishermen have

been barred from fishing in the local rivers, haors and "Their access to fishing has been taken away as the moneyed 'mahajans' (money lenders) control the economi-

cally feeble and disorganised

fishermen's cooperative soci-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' hench-Anyone found bathing in the Ghora-Uttra river will be heavfly fined, hoodlums, who are

non-locals, reportedly yell. The nearest police station, Bajitpur Thana, and a temporary police camp is far way from these people.

Police Superintendent of

Bajitpur described the situa-

However, the Assistant

tion in the area "good and under control." Bengla-Charabahda '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

Samity can fish in it. The Ghora-Uttra river, linked to the closed waterbody, is divided into several segments and leased to other societies. Earlier, people from 15 vil-

from the river and Bengla-Charabadha. The fishermen of the locality say that the government should not lease out the open

lages used to earn their bread

waterbody for money. Khagendra Das (25) of Kaimar-Bauli village still lives

with the marks of bullets that pierced his left shoulder and a

armed guards of the ijaradar when the people tried to stop them from taking sway fish.

Kachuakhola village was shot dead and 30 more received bullet wounds in the incident. The shootout took place in

A notsy demonstration by the fishermen for several days at Bajitpur and at Kishoreganj towns followed the incident. It was quelled by the district au-

thorities.

ing fish and detained them.

islet-like villages that dot the whole 'bhati' (downstream) arganj and Netrokona districts.

Kaimar-Bauli village. "We neither know farming nor any other craft for survival we have to starve if

The fishermen's cooperative societies, registered with the government, are forced to seek fund from the money lenders because they cannot cope with the increasing bidding amounts.

paid after the catch and the rest of the money from sales is divided among the society members. Fishermen alleged that the mahajans become the de-facto

leasees as the society leaders often surrender to the power of money.

The bullets were sprayed on a crowd of fishermen near the mouth of Bengla-Charabadha December 28 last year, by the

Sanjib Das of the nearby

presence of a contingent of pa-

Police arrested several protestors on charges of loot-

However, those arrested on charges of killing the fisherman were freed and allegedly threatening the plaintiffs to withdraw the cases.

Kaimar Bauli, where Kha-

gendra Das lives, is one of the

eas composed of parts of Sunamganj, Habiganj, Kishore-The hamlet located high above the water level houses 115 fishermen families, in dropping shanties covered with vines of local beans and

cucumber. Fishing is the only

means of livelihood for the

fishing is barred," he said.

Usually, the mahajans are

From Page 1 Col 4 previous law, while citing tioner. Cray's interpretation of

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

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

Po-149 but by the impugn

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

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

Attorney General Aminul Haque concurred. "My whole argument was based on con duct (of the petitioner) but unfortunately both judges skipped it." The Judges discarded the

argument saying that the doc-

Choudhury added.

uments were not applicable. The Attorney General added that he had new documents that he would present at the hearing. Terming it as a "scrious judgement," the court noted that Justice Sarkar said that the petitioner was not a collaborator and that Article 2 (b),

which deals with disqualifica-

tion, of the Temporary Order

cannot be used as it was incor-

porated after the impugn noti-

fication was issued to the peti-

To which, the Attorney important part of the be-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 col laboration charges in July 1972, all other documents presented were subsequent to issuing of the impugn govern ment notification in 1973.

"Except for hobnobbing

with the military junta, we do not find anything to suggests that the petitioner had anything to do with the atrocities," he quoted Justice Sarkar as saying in his judgement. The Attorney General inter-

jected saying "what is the

meaning of hobnobbing? It means allied with the military 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

a point of difference. "My judgement may not go anywhere near that of the two judges, I may take a new direction," Justice Choudhury ob-

The case is important, not

because of Golam Azam, but

because it is a landmark case

judges' jurisdiction arose upon

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.

the Citizenship Act of 1951, so no other retrospective law can take away the vested right," he 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

"All became citizen through

adaptation first by operation of

"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-

2 of the Temporary Order.

But the counsel for the petitioner replied "conduct is not included in the three conditions, required to be deemed to be a citizen, of Article 2 of the Temporary Order and that

Article 2 (b) cannot be relied upon as it was incorporated after the impugn notification was issued." The contention of Barrister Yusuf that on the commencement day of the Temporary Order every person shall be deemed to be citizen "carries

weight", Justice B I Choudhury observed in his judgement. Noting that the petitioner was not residing in Pakistan when the impugn notification was issued, the judge pointed out that the "most vital" question is whother petitioner ceased to be deemed to be a citizen of Bangladesh after leaving for Pakistan on

November 22, 1971.

Justice B 1 Choudhury. Barrister Yusuf noted, also held that the temporary absence of the petitioner was covered by proviso to Article 2 and he would be deemed to be a citizen of Bangladesh, while noting the Appellate Division judgements on Abdul Huq (116 BLD of 1982), Mirza Shahab Ispahani (40 DLR) and the High Court Division judgement on the Hamidul Huq Choudhury case (33 DLR).

The counsel for the peti-

tioner also noted that Justice Bl Choudhury held that the petitioner was not guilty of any latches and delays in filing the Writ petition saying that the Home Minister, through a statement in l'arliament in 1980, had allowed the petitioner to stay until a decision was taken on the application of the restoration of his citizenship, he was asked to submit an oath of allegiance and he was also included in two final voters' lists. The petitioner, the judge

indication that his application was not only in "active considcration but in favourable consideration" of the government.

At this point, the hearing was adjourned till 2pm today. The counsel for the petitioner will begin his argument from the next session.

noted, took all of this as an