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# Deadlock in talks

From Page 1 Col 7

afternoon.

The meetings, lasting between one-and-a-half hour to two hours, yielded no tangible results as none of the sides changed their original posi-

The Labour Minister will again meet the SKOP leaders at four this afternoon and the Textiles Minister at 2 pm toleaders.

Leaders of all the three trade union bodies termed vesterday's talks 'fruitless' and, seeing no indications of reaching understanding with the authorities on the implementation of the MOU, ruled out any possibility of abandoning the shutdown programme.

sector workers.

The minister felt that a few

the announcement of the said

Commenting on the outcome of yesterday's talks. SKOP coordinator Dr Wajedul Islam told this correspondent that the government was repeating its proposal only to defuse the labour movement.

He also termed the government offer of sector-wise minimum wages as 'vague' since it mentioned no specific time-frame on the modalities for fixing the wages.

Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah, after his two-hour talks with the Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad leaders, emphatically said that yesterday's session would be the concluding one unless the labour leaders agreed to the Taka 950 minimum wage offer. "You can do whatever you

wish", Hannan Shah reportedly commented in the meeting. He also offered a 15 per

cent increase to the jute mills workers subject to the workers' agreeing to increase production to meet the enhanced

State Minister for Textiles Major Abdul Mannan (retd) reportedly assured the Suta-Bastrakal Sramik Karmachari Federation leaders that the labour leaders and workers ar rested in connection with the March 15-16 strike would be freed and the cases against them would be withdrawn very

The discussions did not touch upon the May 11-13 strike and the labour demands. The minister will meet again with the federation leaders today at 2 pm.

Meanwhile, the SKOP and the jute-textile-cotton-sugar-BSEC workers organised rallies and brought out processions in and around the city yesterday to drum up support for the shutdown.

# Seen from the Gallery

From Page 1 Col 8 Samannya Committee.

The House was proceeding smoothly when suddenly Md. Nasim raised a point of order and said "Police has fired on the peaceful demonstration of the Nirmul Committee at the Bangla Motor area and has used teargas to break up the gathering.

He made a passionate plea about the immorality of deliberating inside the Parliament when people were being

Abdur Razzaq said he had just come from the Nirmu demonstration and there was a rain of teargas shells. He suggested that the parliament should adjourn its business and rush to save the people under

Speaker Shaikh Razzaq Ali pointed out that none of the above issues could be entertained under 'point of order. He offered to permit statements on it, after the question and answer (Q and A) hour. The Speaker stuck to his position, continued the Q and A session, and later permitted the statements on the Nirmul meeting.

Md Nasim repeated his claim that police had fired upon the peaceful demonstration by the Nirmul Committee, and wanted the House to adjourn. Razzaq repeated the same thing. The Home Minister, when asked to report on the incident, categorically denied any police firing and teargas shelling, and said nothing had happened, and that it was the police which

was under attack. On the question of adjournment, the Speaker asked for the view of the Deputy Leader of the House, who said there was no reason for such a

At this stage Abdus Samad Azad, the Deputy Leader of the

Opposition, announced that the AL members would stage a walkout. Two diametrically opposite versions of an incident, taking place within a few miles of the Sangsad, were placed before

the House. Unfortunately both were in sharp variance with the truth. Two Daily Star staffers and two photographers covered the Nirmul meeting.

was indeed no firing. About

So much for the opposition

Now the question is,

chief whip of the opposition, the biggest opposition party

as being amateurish. need not have been so fact, instead of going on the at tack, he should have chaltheir claims, failing which, to openly apologise to the House. That would have been much more like a seasoned parlia-

weather would continue for The visitors were kept away another two to three days. from the parliament yesterday stretched over Assam and due to unexplained security reasons. On the advice of the across Bangladesh caused the Home Ministry, and against rain but the Met Office said the decision of the House this was normal at this time of business advisory committee the year and quite consistent Saturday, the Parliament secwith their monthly forecast. retariat did not issue visitors' passes. The Deputy Leader of severely affected last night the Opposition, Abdus Samad with repeated power disruptions, some lasting over an politician to allow such a hour, until 1:45 am. chance to pass, and quipped 'Who runs the House?' meaning the Speaker or the Home

## Scimitar

From Page 1 Col 5

The government has appointed former Chief Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury and Dr Kamal Hossain to conduct the case, filed on April 6, on its behalf.

Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury has received Tk 97,000 in two instalments as his legal fees but Dr Kamal has not yet taken any fee, the minister informed the House.

On December 28, 1987, Scimitar and Petrobangla entered into an agreement for oil exploration in the country, which invoked a lot of controversy. A case was also filed against the deal, stalling its operation.



-PID photo opening session of the Jatiya Sangsad.

#### Walkout marks JS opening of the verdict of an unconsti-

From Page 1 Col 5 Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the largest opposition in parliament the Awami League last year, includes settlement of the Golam Azam issue according to the law of the land, and bilateral initiatives of the lawyers of both sides to withdraw the cases against 24 persons connected with the 'people's court.'

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, taking the floor, told the House that the opposition's claim of police firing at the Bangla Motors crossing was 'baseless and motivated.'

"Police has neither opened fire nor lobbed any teargas cannister on the Nirmul Committee demonstrators this afternoon", the Home Minister said, adding "the opposition had produced a fabricated story only to implement a previous plan to stage a walk-

Barrister Rafigul Islam Miah, the Works Minister, rebutting the opposition allegation that the government had violated the constitution, told the House, "Rather it was the Nirmul-Committee and its political patron the Awami League which violated the constitution by setting up 'courts' parallel to those created under the constitution.

With the AL-led opposition benches empty, Matiur Rahman Nizami, leader of the Jamaat parliamentary group, told the House that the scenario in the House yesterday was a "consequence of the mid-night schemings between the ruling party and a section of the opposition."

Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House, in his winding up speech on the issue, attacked the Jamaat and defended the government against the AL-led opposition allegation relating to the said four-point understanding.

In a bid to refute the opposition allegation that the government was reluctant to im-

From Page 1 Col 6

other parts of the capital, with

squally winds forcing most of

their equipment inoperative.

until around midnight. The

Met Office could not give the

rainfall records of other parts

of the country.

Electricity was not restored

It said that most parts of

A trough of a westerly low

Work at The Daily Star was

the country experienced rain

on Sunday and the wet

plement the four-point accord. Badruddoza Chowdhury said, The government has not departed an inch from the ac-

Explaining the government position one by one on the four-point understanding, Chowdhury said, "We agreed to solve the Golam Azam contro-versy according to law consistent with the constitution and now, as everybody knows, the highest court of the country is dealing with the issue".

On the question of withdrawal of cases against the 24 organisers of the Gano Adalat Chowdhury argued that contrary to the original understanding, lawyers of the accused were yet to take any initiative to resolve the issue. "The lawyers representing

the government in the case have no reason to noncooperate with their counterparts," Chowdhury observed. On the third point of the

understanding, the Deputy Leader of the House said that democratic values could not be established by the governing party alone; the opposition big or small - must also adopt a similar attitude. \*Establishing democratic

values in society call for continued practise of the democratic concept for years together," Chowdhury said, adding "The ruling party is committed to the ideal but the opposition, on many occasions, had failed to uphold democratic values."

In a bid to refute the last allegation, that the government is violating the constitution by obstructing the citizens from holding rallies and bringing out procession, Chowdhury said that Article 37 of the Constitution ensured the rights but also barred the citizens from staging rallies banned by the government within the purview of the law of the land.

"A rally planned with a view to pressing for implementation

tutional court cannot be termed legal," Chowdhury added On the Jamaat observation

relating to mid-night schem ings' with the AL-led opposi tion, the Deputy Leader of the House said that it was not a secret understanding like the one between the Jamaat, the AL and the Jatiya Party in "The secret understanding

between these three parties had helped give a legal cover to the autocratic regime of Ershad while the four-point accord had nothing to do with either secrecy or anything unconstitutional," Chowdhury concluded. Earlier, an unscheduled de-

bate on the issue began when Nasim, standing on a 'point of order' during the question-answer hour, made a statement on alleged police actions against Nirmul Committee activists and demanded adjournment of the proceedings of the House with a view to discussing the issue.

Abu Yousuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman of the BNP, at this stage, took the floor to point out that the Rules of Procedures of Parliament did not permit raising of any point of order during the question

Sheikh Hasina took the floor to request the Speaker to suspend the rest of the question-answer part and to take up the Nirmul Committee is-

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, however, did not entertain the Leader of the Opposition's request, saying "I cannot break

He, however, assured Hasina that the opposition would be allowed to speak on the issue immediately after the question hour.

Parliament was adjourned at 7-30 pm yesterday to resume at four this afternoon.

#### **PSC**

From Page 1 Col 5 per cent was filled in 1985, five per cent in 1986, four per cent in 1988-89, 0.3 per cent in 1989-90 and none in 1990-

The commission suggested that out of the 25 per cent, available from the reduction of the gazetted posts, 10 per cent should be allocated for women while the remaining 15 per cent should be filled on

In case on non-gazetted posts, the 25 per cent reserved entry-level positions available after reducing the quota for freedom fighters, the PSC recommended that 10 per cent of that should also be reserved for women candidates while the other 15 per cent should be allocated on the ba-

sis of population.

1987 to 1989.

In support of its recommendations for raising the quota for women candidates, the PSC pointed out that women, constituting nearly 50 per cent of the population, are more sincere in pursuing studies and perform better in public services examinations.

# Indian judge

From Page 1 Col 8 and Haryana High Court from

He has been charged with spending five million rupees (166,666 dollars) on carpets and other furnishings, of running up exorbitant telephone bills and of taking money against false bills for car repairs and petrol expenses.

## Benazir denies personal deal

LONDON, May 9: Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said today she believes she is standing by the people of Pakistan in putting her party behind her former foe, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, reports AFP.

Speaking in an interview with BBC Television, Bhutto denied that she had made any "personal deal" with the president in throwing the support of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) behind the ouster of former prime minister Nawaz

Denying charges of dealmaking, she said legal cases were still outstanding against herself and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, who has joined the interim government appointed to oversee elections scheduled for July 14.

"The cases against my husband have not been thrown out ... we did not make a personal deal at any time," she

## NAM ministers meet in Bali

today

JAKARTA, May 9: Representatives of 37 member countries of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM), meeting in Bali from Monday, will try to lay the foundations for a resumption of North-South dialogue, diplomats here say, reports AFP.

#### Ex-DFI chief's bail petition rejected

A district court yesterday rejected the bail petition of former DFI Chief Brig (rtd) Nasiruddin, held in connection with wrist watch smuggling and murder of a customs official in 1983, reports UNB.

"The case is under investigation and hence the prayer is rejected," observed District and Sessions Judge Nasiruddin Ahmed while dis-

The case was revived after the wife of the dead customs officer Abdur Rouf met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and sought justice.

#### Hasina

From Page 1 Col 5

right of the citizens to hold rallies and stage demonstrations to press for their de-

But the government had been resorting to police atroci ties against the Nirmul Committee activists agitating for the trial of Golam Azam as a war criminal, she said.

The government had disrupted at least three Nirmul committee rallies in the city during last three months, she observed.

Hasina claimed that police had opened fire and lobbed teargas shells on the peaceful Nirmul Committee demonstrators yesterday when they were trying to reach the elected representatives of the people in Parliament. "We staged the walkout to

register our protest against this police atrocity," the AL chief said.

"As the elected representa-

tives of the people, we are committed to upholding the constitutional rights of the people," Hasina said adding We wanted to discuss the issue in the House but we were refused permission to do so." Begum Matia Chowdhury,

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Shudhangshu Shekhar Halder, Rahmat Alt and Abul Kalam Azad were, among others, present at the briefing.

#### BNPPP decides to face issues politically

The ruling BNP Parlia mentary Party yesterday took stock of the situation prevailing in the country and decided to face all political issues politically, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a BNPP meeting held at the Sangsad Bhaban which discussed the political and economic situation of the country.

Significant recent political incidents figured prominently in the meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), sources said without claborating.

Reduction of fertiliser price and the water crisis faced by the country due to the dehydrating impact of the Farakka barrage on the Ganges also fcatured in the discussion.

At the start of the meeting a minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed soul of Shri Lankan President and SAARC leader Ranasinghe Premadasa who was assassinated by a suicide bomber in a May Day rally in Colombo.

#### Agreed minutes

From Page 1 Col 8

mittee comprising parliament members, on the last leg of his seven-day official visit to India visited the relief camps to see the conditions of the tribal

State Minister for External Affairs of India Salman Khurshed, members of the committee Rashed Khan Menon MP, Shahjahan Chowdhury MP, Mushtaq Ahmed Chowdhury MP, Syed Wahidul Alam MP and Md Shahjahan MP were also with the Bangladesh minister and addressed the refugees.

Ahmed, referring to the godwill and sincere commitment of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, emphatically said, the tribal people would get back their land and homesteads on their return.

He added the government will ensure their safe and honourable return.

Salman Khurshed said, the government of India will extend all possible assistanace to expedite the return of the refugees.

The Communiccetions Minister returned home tonight.

# The Midnight File

Muslim militants kill 2 Egyptian policemen

ASYUT, Egypt, May 9: Gunmen believed to be Muslim militants shot dead two policemen and wounded a third in a string of attacks today in a town of southern Egypt, a police spokesman said. Lieutenant Yehia Abdel Malek was killed in an ambush as he left home for work in Kusstyeh, a town in the Asyut region near Dayrut, considered by police to be the fundamentalists' main stronghold in the south. The gunmen, three or four according to police, shot their way out of the area and fled along the towns main street, reports AFP.

#### Croats attack Muslim forces

ZENICA, (Bosnia-Hercegovina), May 9: Croat forces attacked Muslim troops in the southern city, of Mostar today as the two nominal allies continued fighting despite a ceasefire between Muslims and Serbs, European Community monitors and UN officials said, reports AFP.

# Nirmul march to JS

From Page 1 Col 7

Earlier, several thousand supporters thronged the Shahbagh crossing and marched towards the parliament at around 4-45 pm but were intercepted near the Bangla Motor crossing where riot police, donning bullet proof jackets and newly-imported gas masks, were deployed behind a barbed-wire barricade on the road.

the police the protesters sat on the street and started chanting anti-Jamaat, anti-Golam Azam and anti-government slogans. The cocktails exploded at

Following a brief scuffle with

around 5-15 pm when Jahanara Imam was addressing the supporters. She said that it was a democratic, peaceful movement but

rassment She urged the people to continue the agitation until 'war criminal' Golam Azam was

the government tried to foil it

through repression and ha-

Abdus Samad Azad said that since police and governmenthired hooligans had attacked and injured the committee supporters, the opposition parties except the Jamaat had staged a walkout from Parliament.

He urged the people to make Thursday's half-day har-

#### Manju released From Page 1 Col 6 The former communica

tions minister was released from the jail at 5:45 in the morning yesterday. Immediately after his re

companions, drove to Dhaka from Rajshahi by a car. He reached the capital at 1:45 pm. Earlier, Manju was received at the jail gate by a number of Jatiya Party leaders, workers,

lease Manju, along with some

He also attended the parliament session yesterday

# Exporters

From Page 1 Col 4

friends and relatives.

ented industries were being affected mainly by three factors; (1) cost-price squeeze, (2) unremunerative foreign exchange rates and (3) sub-optimal productivity of the factor advantage.

"On one hand, we have the declining unit price of export products.... on the other hand, prices of major inputs have increased significantly", he said and added that the exporters of the country were not being able to compete with those of the neighbouring countries which offered fiscal and monetary concessions.

He also expressed disappointment at the government's inaction in reforming the exchange rate despite repeated appeals by the chambers.

Stressing the need for reforms in the industrial relations system of the country, he said no concrete steps were taken yet to solve the labour problem which was affecting the manufacturing sector in attaining optimal productivity.

ATM Wajiullah stressed the need for increasing infrastructural facilities for the exportoriented industries and said that earlier suggested mea sures by the DCCI for promoting export should be implemented on urgent basis to sustain the extremely competitive international market.

He said Bangladesh exporters of traditional items were being defeated by the ex porters of other countries because of the competition.

The DCCI President also suggested that an inter-ministerial coordination committee should be formed for quick implementation of the government policies and recommendations of the chambers.

tal, called by the Nirmul Committee earlier, a success. The committee yesterday added a new point to its char-

ter of demands : the govern-

ment should stop violation of

fundamental rights. The committee convenor submitted a copy of a memorandum to Samad Azad to place before Parliament.

During the two-and-a-halfhour sit-in more than a dozen leaders including Mohammad Nasim, MP, Abdur Razzak, MP Shahjahan Khan, MP, Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan, Ahad Chowdhury, Naim Jahangir, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Hasanul Huq Inu, Nurul Islam Nahid, Col (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, Abu Osman Chowdhury, Ahmedur Rahman Azmi, Gaziul Hug, Hassan Imam and Abdul Mannan Chowdhury addressed the

### **UNDP** chief quits

gathering.

UNDP Administrator William H Draper offered his resignation on May 6 to the United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali with effect from July 15, re-

ports BSS. According to a press release from the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Dhaka, Draper has headed the

#### UNDP for seven years. Affidavit filed

From Page 1 Col 3 Those articles, he said, along with Articles 99, 115 and 116 touch upon the inde-

same being an integrated concept of the entire judiciary. Unless the aforementioned articles are declared as they were originally in the 1972 constitution, there is a danger

of the collapse of the constitu-

pendence of the judiciary, the

tional scheme, he added. Barrister Islam argued that Articles 95, 98, 99, 115 and 116 as incorporated in the 1972 constitution were part of the structural pillars of the constitution and that they can only be improved upon and

cannot be derogated. At this point the court wanted to know as to how the

petitioners were aggrieved. The petitioners, Barrister Islam submitted, were aggrieved as citizens as their fundamental rights have been violated. As lawyers, he said, the petitioners were aggrieved as they could not ensure their clients equal justice and equal protection of the Law in the

Furthermore, he added, the petitioners were also aggrieved since officials of the court they have a duty to protect the independence of the judges and that of the judiciary. "The community of lawyers

court.

are equal partners with the judges in the administration of justice and if independence of the judiciary is impaired the bar is aggrieved more than individual judges," the counsel for the petitioners submitted. Barrister Islam also submit-

ted that as per Article 116 of the constitution, consultation with the Supreme Court in appointing High Court judges should be an effective consulta-Consultation in regard to the appointment of magis-

ties is not at all done and is a violation of Article 116, he added. The hearing was adjourned till today (Monday).

During the day's hearing there was no representation from the government's side and no one from the Attorney General's office was present.

trates performing judicial du-

However, Barrister Rafiqur Rahman submitted that he had been engaged by the government for the case. But the court declined to hear him unless a rule was issued on the matter. Thereafter, Rahman left the court.

# more months were needed for

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhutyan led the government side in the discussions with the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) at the Bureau of Manpower Employment Training in the evening. Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah held his talks with the Patkal (Jute) Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad leaders at the BJMC office, also in the evening, while State Minister Major (retd) Abdul Mannan talked to the Bangladesh Suta-Basrakal (textile) Sramik Karmachari Federation representatives at the BTMC office in the

day while the Jute Minister did not give any fresh appointment to the Jute Mills

Labour Minister Abdu Mannan Bhuiyan reportedly told the SKOP leaders that the government agreed to fix Taka 950 as the minimum wage for the public sector units and was ready to announce minimum wages for 15 industrial sectors But the SKOP leaders rejected the offer and demanded immediate announcement of the National Wages and Productivity Commission report that proposed a minimum of salary Tk 1000 for the public

They all confirmed that there

teargas shelling, nothing could be confirmed. claim. On the other hand, there were lots of crackers bursting and attempts to disrupt the Nirmul demonstration. So the claim by the Home Minister that absolutely nothing untoward had happened

was not true either. statements within the walls of the highest and most sacred democratic institution of the country — the Parliament are made with such disregard for facts, then how can we

build democratic traditions? A responsible man like the who is a respected member of should perhaps have his facts double checked before he brings such claims to the floor of the House and drags his own party into a course of action which erodes its credibility

and lays it open to criticisms The Home Minister, too. provocative in his speech. In lenged the opposition to prove

Azad, was too seasoned Minister. "Of course, the Speaker," Badruddoza Chowdhury assured. An embarrassed Speaker brought the discussion to a close by pointing to Rule 312 under which visitors may be barred from the House for security reasons.

However, passes will be avail-

able from today.

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# missing the petition.