Suspend UN poll results, demands Phnom Penh

PHNOM PENH, June 6: The Phnom Penh government de manded today suspension of the UN election results until an independent inquiry was held, saying its previous demand for limited new elections was not enough to correct "massive irregularities", reports AFP.

However, a government spokesman hinted that the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] would let the matter drop and accept the election result if the coalition government proposed Thursday by Prince Norodom Sihanouk was allowed to form.

"By setting up this national government, we can avoid this situation," senior advisor and Deputy Minister Khieu Kanharith said at a press conference.

The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has already certified the May 23-28 voting process as free and fair. The nearly completed results gave the opposition Royalist FUNCINPEC party 45.3 per cent to the government's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) 38.7 per cent.

FUNCINPEC has accused the CPP of trying to blackmail its way into having more power than it actually won.

CPP spokesman Sokan denied that the new demand came because the government lost the election, and said the government would cede power if the independent panel ruled that CPP lost the election.

"Because the irregularities are so large in number and include so many different types of problems and because the actions of the UNTAC during he electoral process have been placed in question, the CPP requests that the election results be held in abeyance until an impartial panel can hold hearing to consider the large number of election disputes and irregularities," the CPP president Chea Sim said in a letter to UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi. Under the UN electoral law

an UNTAC committee can be appointed to investigate complaints, but the government said UNTAC officials would not be impartial judges and demanded that all parties agree to independent panel members who would hold public

An UNTAC spokesman could not immediately be reached

Meanwhile, Prince Norodom Sthanouk threw up his hands at a public rally Sunday and declared he could do nothing to help save Cambodia until the United Nations left.

Prince Sihanouk said there was nothing more he could do to bring together the government, which holds power, and the opposition Royalist party PUNCINPEC, which fell short of an absolute majority but won last week's election.

Sihanouk tried unsuccessfully to form a coalition government between the two

"We will have to wait until September when UNTAC leaves. They will transfer authority to Cambodia and give us independence," he told a government-organised rally of more than 5,000 people.

"I feel like a doctor who has come to heal Cambodia but my medicine is not helpful. Sthanouk said.

He appeared healthy, even though he told UNTAC officials he could not meet with them this weekend because he was

The rally and Prince Sihan ouk's remarks were seen as way to pressure UNTAC into allowing the formation of the coalition government.

5 Iraqis to die for war crimes in Kuwait

KUWAIT, June 6: Five Iraqis were sentenced to death in Kuwait today on charges relating to Iraq's seven-month occupation of the Emirate, the official Kuwait news agency KUNA reported, says Reuter.

KUNA said the five were convicted of attempting to recruit Kuwaitis to join Iraq's ruling Baath Party following the August 1990 invasion of the

Lively debate in JS From Page 1 Col 5

the minister added.

As many as 16 MPs from both benches took part in the debate with both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition present in the House.

The opposition MPs maintained that Article 54 clearly stated that the Speaker would function as the acting President in the absence of the President

They said that this constitutional obligation was breached and criticised the ruling party for its reluctance to admit the mistake.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed o the Jatiya Party (JP), referring to the 1974 ruling, said that the then Speaker's ruling was virtually designed to cover a similar lapse. Such mistakes should not be repeated, the JP leader asserted. Moudud suggested that the treasury bench should not hesitate to admit the mis-

Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury, the solitary National Democratic Party (NDP) member, observed that as per the Constitution, the Speaker automatically became the acting President the moment the latter had left the country.

The functions performed by

Shaikh Razzak Ali during May 26 to June 5 as Speaker were not beyond question," the NDP leader said, adding "The acting President can not function as Speaker."

Tofael Ahmed of the AL said that there could not be a constitutional vacuum in case the President went abroad. He said that when the then President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman went to Jamaica in 1975, Syed Nazrul Islam was made the acting President.

Mohammad Nasim, chief whip of the opposition, accused the government of "Its tendency to justify mistakes."

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda told the House that the President, on the eve of his departure for Saudi Arabia, had considered a past ruling on an identical issue. Parliament should honour the ruling of a past Speaker. The minister observed that the ruling given by the Speaker in 1974 was perfectly valid today and President Biswas had done nothing unconstitutional.

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqui Islam Miah, although defending the Law Minister. observed that the Constitution in fact did not contain any particular provision to deal with such situations. The minister, however, felt that the House should take up this point seriously to avoid similar problems in future. He said that the Americans had to adopt the 25th amendment to their con-

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, the Deputy Leader of the House, while giving the winding up speech on the issue said constitutional interpretations were always guided by prece-

stitution to solve such a prob-

The Deputy Leader said that President Biswas did not hand over the charge of his office to the Speaker keeping in mind the ruling of Speaker Abdul Malek Ukil in 1974.

The question of inability in discharging his functions was to be decided by the President himself, and President Biswas felt that he could continue to discharge the duties vested in him by the Constitution while abroad and therefore did not call upon the Speaker to function as acting President, Prof Chowdhury maintained.

Prof Chowdhury also observed that all parliaments since the adoption of the present constitution were legal. "We must accept these parliaments and their proceedings with due honour," he said, stressing on the need for continuity of the Constitutional pro-

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali after the two-and-a half hour debate on the issue, told the House at 1:30 pm that he would think over the issue. The Speaker refrained from giving a

Other legislators who participated in the debate included Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Salahuddin Yousuf and Sheikh Fazlu Karim Selim of the AL, Matiur Rahman Nizami of the Jamaat, Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers' Party, Shah-jahan Siraj of the Jatiya Samaj-tantrik Dal and Advocate Fazle Rabbi of the Jatiya Party.

Earlier in the day, a fivemember panel of chairmen was nominated to conduct the business of the House in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

The panel members are: L K Siddiqui (BNP), Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan (BNP), Abdur Rahim (AL), Begum Lutfunnesa Hossain (BNP) and Mir Shawkat Alt (BNP).

At the commencement of the 10th session of the Fifth Parliament the Speaker proposed the names of the members of the panel and the House approved unanimously.

Editor: S. M. Ali

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



A Jamaat-e-Islami rally proceeding towards the Jatiya Sangsad to submit a memorandum - Star photo yesterday.

Jamaat From Page 1 Col 7

Ganges barrage to offset the dehydrational impact of the Indian dam.

In the memo, Jamaat made an appeal to all MPs irrespective of their party affiliations to play a strong role in realising the country's legitimate share of the Ganges water.

"The national assembly should take specific steps through discussion in the current session of parliament," it said, urging all MPs to play a bold role in solving the prob-

"India has been behaving with Bangladesh inhumanly violating all international norms and laws," it said and criticised the role of the present government in resolving the Farakka issue and other bilateral issues with India.

Earlier, a rally was held at the Mogbazar crossing, which was addressed by Shamsur Rahman, Mohammad Kamruzzaman, Abdul Kader Mollah, Prof Mujibur Rahman, Jasimuddin Sarkar and Dr Sved Abdullah Mohammad Taher. Mominul Islam Patwari

Obituary references

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday adopted obituary references for three prominent politicians, reports BSS.

They were former member of parliament Lutfar Rahman, former member of the erstwhile Provincial Assembly, Abdus Sobhan and Advocate Kalimuddin Ahmed. The Speaker Shaikh Ra-

zzaque Ali moved the motion of obituary references and the House approved it unani-

One minute's silence was observed by the members of the House as a mark of respect to the departed souls. A special prayer led by BNP member Maulana Ataur Rahman Khan was also offered.

Mongolians vote

BEIJING, June 6: Mongolians voted Sunday in their first multiparty presidential elections ever, choosing between a conservative newspaper editor and an incumbent who was dumped by the ruling former communists, says AP.

Recent opinion polls showed President Punsalmagiyn Ochirbat favoured over Lodongiyn Tudev, editor of the official newspaper Unen.

AYODHYA, June 6: Fears of

possible clashes between rival

devotees and a boycott by

troversial Indian guru's plans

to hold a prayer meeting today

near the toppled Babri Mos-

Residents of this holy pil-

grimage town in northern

India mostly stayed indoors as

carloads of Hindu priests ar-

rived to attended globe-trot-

ting Guru Chandraswarhi's

"Som Yagya," or prayer by fire,

earth," a handful of Hindu

priests chanted after the cer-

emonial fires were lit some

three hours before the guru

arrived in a convoy of 60 vehi-

cles filled with followers,

bodyguards and paramilitary

Jeeps fitted with loudspeak-

ers cruised the town announc-

ing the arrival of the million-

aire guru who holds sway over

much of the Indian leadership

and counts royalty, film stars

and captains of industry among

"I am here," the bearded

and portly Chandraswami an-

nounced on arriving at the

sparsely attended venue some

900 feet from the ruins of the

mosque destroyed by Hindu

A crowd of about 2,000 peo-

ple had gathered in the tent

extremists on December 6.

"Let there peace be on

que, reports AFP.

for world peace.

his devotees.

Hindu priests marred a con-

Govt college teachers start token strike tomorrow

vesterday warned that they would go for an indefinite strike from June 17 if their 12-point demands were not met by today, reports UNB.

The association in a statement also announced an action programme from tomorrow (Tuesday) which will include token work stoppage from 10 am to 12 noon and wearing of black badges.

The token strike will be extended for three hours from June 12 to 15 if the demands are not met till then.

The association said it will launch the indefinite strike

Diarrhoea claims 1698 in four months, JS told A total of 1,698 people died

of diarrhoeal disease in the country in last four months till April 30, Deputy Health Minister Sirajul Haq told the parliament yesterday, reports UNB. He was replying to a ques-

tion from Mohammad Abdus Shaheed of the Awami League. Some opposition MPs, including Mohiuddin Ahmed of the Awami League, refused to accept the official figure of

death claiming that the actual figure should be higher than quoted by the minister. According to available figures, some 310 people died of the disease in Laxmipur, 267 in

180 in Barguna. Two killed in road mishaps

Pirojpur, 192 in Patuakhali and

By Staff Correspondent

Two people including a minor girl were killed in separate road accidents in the city yes-

Our Dhaka Medical College Correspondent reports, a tenyear-old girl was killed and three others were injured when a speeding jeep ran over an auto rickshaw near Shabujbag police station early Sunday.

Meanwhile, in another accident at Dholaipar in the city an unidentified rickshawpuller, 50, died on the spot when a truck dashed his tri-cycle near Geet-Sangeet Cinema hall Sunday

of violence ends in fiasco

*built for 25,000 seeking shel-

ter from the 45 degree Celsius

sticks and concealed firearms

guarded the venue as a precau-

tion against a possible attack

by the outlawed Vishwa Hindu

Parishad (VHP, World Hindu

Forum) or other militant gro-

ups opposed to the prayer

Brandishing a stick, Rames-

hwar Thakur, chief of the 44-

year-old guru's stormtroopers,

who police say have long

criminal records, said, "We

will first persuade them with

love, or otherwise we will use

Before Chandraswami's ar-

rival a group of saffron-robed

holy men walked out on the

prayers calling them a 'deadly

stayed away from the meeting,

described Chandraswami as a

"Fraud and a puppet of Prime

The guru sponsored the

prayers to 'exorcise ' India of

the violence unleashed by the

destruction of the 16th cen-

Other holy men also threat-

"We will not tolerate black

magic," said Ashok Dibiwedi,

head of a 50-member delega-

tion of priests from the holy

Hindu city of Varanasi. "If

tury Babri Mosque.

ened to join the boycott.

Minister PV Narasimha Rao."

Several invited priests, who

these."

Some 500 men armed with

The demands include com pensation and promotion to the affected teachers following direct recruitment to the posts of assistant professors, creation of posts in 233 colleges, particularly in 57 colleges, to increase the standard

They also demanded implementation of some decisions already taken at meetings between the association and the authorities in recent months.

DCCI chief

From Page 1 Col 8

materials and components imported by local industries producing same products have rendered these units sick."

for a more pragmatic approach to rationalise direct taxes in order to encourage savings and investments.

merely short-term revenue oriented, aiming at only reducing the fiscal deficit.

tations in a positive manner,' Waziullah said. Commenting on the public sector, the DCCI chief said

administrative efficiency would be needed for accelerating the pace of development projects. "There should also be simultaneous efforts at contain-

expenditure," Waziullah said. The DCCI chief further said not only taxation, but efficiency and quality of government expenditure also affect private

should be placed on expanding the operations in social sectors for human resources development which would also help alleviate poverty and create

Chandraswami's men insist on

animal sacrifices or spilling of

Hundreds of Muslim resi

dents of Ayodhya fled ahead of

the meeting, fearful of re-

newed violence, and few resi-

"They are scared. They fear

the prayers will push their

own into turmoil once again,

said Dweenanth Pandit, a

Some 5,000 policemen and

federal troops guarded the

prayer site amid fears that the

VHP would mobile its followers

"We are taking no chances,"

The VHP, which was at the

said Ayodhya Police Chief

forefront of the drive to re-

place the Babri Mosque with a

Hindu temple, has condemned

the meeting as a government

plot to divide India's Hindu

DN Uadhaya, one of Chan-

draswami's organisers, said,

"We have not come here to

build temples or mosques. We

have come here to pray for

He blamed the low atten-

"It is a sin that will take the

dance on a VHP plot to sabo-

VHP to hell," he said, "The

saints are all here but they are

not attending the prayers."

dents turned out today.

to storm the venue.

Harbachan Singh

elergy.

peace.

tage the exercise.

blood we too will walk out."

Examinations (HSC) scheduled to begin on the same day. They urged the Prime Minister, Minister for Education, the Finance Minister.

of education, appointment of new lecturers, promotion etc.

The DCCI president called

"The budget must not be

"It must directly address itself to the issues which would Help influence business expec-

significant improvements in

ing non-productive current

The major thrust of overall government expenditure

people's purchasing power." Guru's attempt to 'exorcise' India

COLOSSAL LOSSES CAUSED BY FARAK

Bangladesh Government from June 17, boycotting the College Teachers' Association Higher Secondary Certificate

State Minister for Education and State Minister for Establishment to help meet their

compared to those on raw ministry of establishment (additional secretary), made Chair man of Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA).

Chowdhury Khalequzzaman, Chairman of Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation appointment as ambassador.

Saleuddin Ahmed has been appointed Director General of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla for two years term.

Floods in Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya

NEW DELHI, June 6: Thousands of people were rendered homeless in India's remote north eastern villages and towns after heavy rains and floods the state- run television reported today, reports AFP.

low- lying areas across the Tripura, the television said. mud-and-brick homes came

Officials said rivers in all the states had crossed the danger mark and were still rising. Letter bomb

NEW DELHI, June 6: A

letter box located outside a railway station, destroying all mail, PTI said. Police said the explosion was caused by a letter apparently stuffed with chemi-

WB economist From Page 1 Col 5

necessary to review and upgrade the economic analysis of the project.

also conduct studies on the country's transport sector and recommend ways for its development. He will study the master-

Market Project, the Port System Development Project, the Third Inland Water Transportation Project and some other WB-financed projects during his visit.

Call to include jute spinning under WB

reform plan By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Jute Spinners' Association, at a meeting Sunday, urged the government to bring the jute spinning mills under the World Bank proposed reform programmes for the jute

The meeting, presided over by the president of the Bangladesh Jute Spinners' Association (BJSA), reviewed the overall problems of the jute sector and the spinning sector in particular and proposed some measures to solve the various problems.

The proposals include a reduction of the interest rate on working capital, introduction of a flexible exchange rate, withdrawal of the 'peak hour' electricity rate for the export-oriented industries, exemption of 'tax at source' on the export value and providing the jute exporters with export incentives.

The meeting felt that Bangladeshi exporters were not being able to compete with the exporters of India and some other neighbouring countries because of irrational currency exchange

It also alleged that the scheduled banks of the country did not reduce the interest rate on working capital although the Bangladesh Bank had reduced the bank rate. The BJSA meeting urged the

government to extend the time-

limit for repayment of loans of the jute mills and to waive in-Top level changes in admin

Director General of Bangladesh Television Anisul Huc Chowdhury has been appointed Officer on Special Duty (additional secretary) in the Ministry of Establishment, reports BSS. AKM Salamatullah, who was

Officer on Special Duty (additional secretary) in the ministry, has been appointed Director General of Bangladesh Televi-Meanwhile, M Saiful Islam Officer on Special Duty of the

M Golam Kibria, Officer on Special Duty (additional secretary) of the same ministry, has been appointed Chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Tra-

nsport Authority (BIWTA). The services of Brig (retd) has been placed under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for

Cirdap programme officer Dr

formed. Earlier, a large number of

The flash floods, caused by

monsoon rains, had inundated

states of Assam, Meghalaya and In Tripura, more than 10,000 villagers fled after their under a sea of water, it added.

explodes in Bombay

"letter bomb" exploded today inside a letter box in India' Bombay city, causing damage but no injuries, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, says

The blast ripped apart the

The World Bank official will

plan for the country's ports

and their trade facilitation system and recommend measures for integration of the Dhaka, Chittagong and Mongla ports. The WB economist will also review the Rural Roads and

The Midnight-Eile

legislative election, reports AFP.

Ruling party leading in Spanish polls MADRID, June 6: The first three exit polls broadcast by

Indian troops kill three infiltrators

Spanish television showed the ruling Socialist Party slightly

ahead of the opposition Conservative People's Party in today's

NEW DELHI (India), June 6: Indian troops shot and killed three guerillas trying to cross from Pakistan into the disputed state of Kashmir, Press Trust of India reported. Pakistani soldiers fired Saturday at Indian troops to divert their attention as the infiltrators cross into India, Press Trust reported. Indian troops returned fire, killing three infiltrators and wounding several others, Press Trust reported. Defense ministry spokesman were not immediately available for comment, reports AP.

Britain to deploy women soldiers in Ireland

LONDON, June 6: Britain will deploy armed women soldiers on patrols in Northern Ireland for the first time in the autumn, the Ministry of Defense said Saturday. A spokesman said for the first time women will drive armoured personnel carriers into the most dangerous parts of the British-ruled province, where more than 3,000 people have died in political and sectarian violence since 1969, reports AP.

Seen from the Gallery

From Page 1 Col 8 trips abroad, the Speaker Minister, Mirza Golam Hafiz which, curiously enough, appeared to be addressed more to the Prime Minister sitting next to him than to either the House or the Speaker, did not cut much ice. The argument mainly consisted of citing a 1974 precedent during which the then President left the country without naming an acting President. While it was refreshing to observe that the ruling BNP had finally found something of the pre-'75 period worthy of reference and even of emulation, yet the point re-

Head of State on a Hajj pilgrim-Speaking for the treasury bench Rafiqul Islam Miah and Nazmul Huda, both barristers said that the need for naming an acting President arises only in the case of the inability of the President to carry out his functions and that such was not the case. Some, including Nazmul Huda, went on to further state that before leaving President Biswas had felt satisfied and confident that the functions of the Presidency would be carried out smoothly during his absence and therefore there was no need for naming an acting President.

mained that the country was

without a clear chain of com-

mand during the absence of the

Experts feel that the arguments of the treasury bench are quite untenable and that the government was at fault in not having named an acting President. The Constitution, according to them, is very clear on the subject - that in case of absence of the President on Saifur

From Page 1 Col 4 director then the central bank shall remove him or her within three months of getting in-

pated in the discussion opposing the bill. They pointed out that the bill in its original form was passed hurriedly by the House in May, 1991 which contained lacunae and printing mistakes, and pleaded for bringing the bill

opposition members partici-

Referring to various provisions of the bill, the opposition members said that the bill was brought into the House to appease the World Bank and other international financial institu-The opposition members

afresh after giving due thought.

cipline in the banking sector for smooth economic development in the country and as such any change or amendment to the laws regulating the banking sector should be properly exam-They said that The Banking Company (Amendment) Bill was

Ministry. They were of the view that the Bangladesh Bank had been given wide powers over the scheduled banks and pleaded for maintaining a balance between the central bank and scheduled banks.

Parliamentary Standing

Committee on the Finance

The Jamaat members, however, pleaded for introducing a banking system based on profit and loss instead of interest which is prohibited by Islam.

The opposition members referred to the provision in the bill of imposing fine by the Bangladesh Bank and said such a provision was contrary to the constitutional provision. Fine could only be imposed by a court not by any bank, they said. Tofael Ahmed of Awami

League suggested an amendment to the bill enabling a person to buy as much share of a bank as he liked. This, he said, would help generate competition in the share market to buy shares of a bank. No one will be interested in making investment for a losing concern, he added.

should act on his behalf. If one takes a liberal view of

it all, it can perhaps be said that we live and learn, and in this case also we are learning from experience. The treasury bench, therefore, should admit that there was an oversight and put the matter behind them. However, a point needs to be

made that there appears to be a reluctance on the part of the ruling party to adhere to some of the constitutional provisions that are usually conformed to in a parliamentary system. There is the more serious case of the failure of the gov-

ernment to name an acting Prime Minister when Begum Zia is on her trips abroad. Why is this reluctance to clearly identify the chain of command in the cabinet? The obvious impression that such reluctance gives is that the PM is either not willing, or is not in a position, to name a Number Two in her cabinet. Hence she is unable to designate an acting Prime Minister. This does not speak of a well-disciplined party, nor of a well-organised cabinet. These are ordinarily small things, but in times of crises may portend very serious consequences. Some critics say that the PM herself is rejuctant to name an acting PM for reasons best known to herself.

Whatever may be her inner compulsions, it is definitely a bad government practice. The chain of command must be clear and the hierarchy in the government should be unambiguous and for the public to

Parliament did well to discuss the acting President issue. It must also be said that the debate, refreshingly for a change, was conducted not on partisan lines, but with the seriousness and dignity that the issue deserved. Compliments to all the members who took part in it. Let us have more of such

Opposition

serious and well-focussed de-

From Page 1 Col 5 The Speaker repeatedly announced the name of Mirza Azam of the AL who was top among the 53 members listed for discussion on the topic but Azam remained unmoved in his seat heeding his senior party

colleagues' signal not to speak. Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim took the floor and said that "We should honour the business advisory committee's decision. The committee had also considered the problem of the journalists covering the parliament regarding their deadline."

sory committee had not taken any such rigid decision. The committee left it to the Speaker's discretion, he said, adding that "If necessary I can continue beyond nine." Deputy Leader of the

Opposition Abdus Samad Azad then conceded "You have the authority". But he added that the members had participated in an exhaustive day-long session and most of his own party colleagues had already left the House believing it would continue only until 9 pm. The Speaker insisted that

and requested a continuation of the day's proceedings for another half hour since only one out of the four bills was passed until then. But the Opposition remained adamant and were preparing to walk out when the Speaker

again asked the Deputy Leader

the absentees would be given

the chance tomorrow (Monday)

of the House to suggest ways to resolve the matter. Prof Chowdhury said "It is up to you. If you think that the bills can be passed by tomorrow then you can adjourn the

Thus the Speaker adjourned the House till 10 am Monday. By this time 20 minutes of his proposed half hour extension

House for the day.

had already elapsed.

said that they too wanted dis-The Speaker said the advidrafted by bureaucrats and it was not discussed in the