Opposition betraying cause of people

Treasury bench members tell JS

Treasury bench members yesterday accused the opposition political parties of betray ing the cause of the people by tendering en masse resignation from the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

"They have voted them to Parliament to speak for them and point out their grievances but the opposition members have denied their rights by resigning." they said.

Initiated by the State Minister for Finance. Mojibar Rahman and four other members took part in the general discussion on the presidential address to parliament on January 23. With them the total number of participants in the discussion rose to 19.

Yesterday's other participants were Forest and Environment Minister. Col. (retd) Akbar Hossain, Ansar Ali Siddiqui, Principal Abdur Rashid Khan and Khondkar Badrud-

Akbar Hossain said the Opposition, particularly the Awami League, would be held responsible if democracy was affected in the country.

The minister said despite the acceptance of the opposition demand for election under a neutral government they (opposition members) tendered their resignation.

He said Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had accepted

the demand that she would step down from power 30 days ahead of general elections but even then the Opposition re-

signed. Hossain said democracy would never be safe in the hands of the Awami League which had killed it in four minutes in 1975 and introduced the one-party (BAKSAL)

 Mujibur Rahman said that the current foreign exchange reserve of the country stood at US dollar 3.11 billion equivalent to Taka 13,000 crore and the government was in a position to pay the entire import bill for one year from the present reserve.

He said the fiscal programme of the government had created enthusiasm in the economic field of the country which resulted in the increase of stock exchange transactions in 1994 to the tune of Taka 3002 crore.

He said the people had rejected the Opposition in the 1991 parliamentary elections for their past politics of destruction, lawlessness and anarchy. Now seeing no hope they are again resorting to disrupt the development process by calling frequent hartals. gheraos and strikes, he added

Deputy Speaker, Humayun Khan Panni, adjourned House at 1.30 pm till 11 am today.

Third day of barricade

From Page 1 Col 5

tile mills, in the private and public sectors, had announced the strike and the barricade programme demanding implementation of the Wages Commission Award.

The entire Ghorashal industrial belt was cordoned by the police and para-military BDR yesterday, forcing the workers to stay inside the premises of their mills, sources said.

The workers, however, hoisted black flags at the mills. were black badges and held gayebana janaza to protest and mourn the deaths of fellow workers.

Our Narayangani Corres-. pondent says, a clash between the workers of the Adamiee Jute Mills, the country's largest and members of law enforcing agencies took place when the latter intercepted a workers' procession at the mills gate yesterday morning.

At least 15 people, including two policemen, were injured in the hour-long clash and police used teargas and rubber bullets to bring the situation under control.

Of the injured, one Zakir Hossain was admitted to the Narayangani Hospital with bullet injuries, while the injured police personnel were identified as Havilder Sadek and

Constable Jahangir Alam. Railway sources said. movement of four trains in the Eastern Zone was suspended due to barricades put up on various routes from 8 am to 2

A few trains, however, left

Dhaka for Chittagong via Mymensingh, by passing the Ghorashal station which became a trouble spot, particularly for train communication during the agitation.

Road communication between Dhaka and other parts of the country was also disrupted due to the barricade programme. A few inter-city buses, however, departed from the city's Gabtali terminal.

The workers' leaders al leged that police along with BNP activists, set fire to the workers' colony of Golunda Textile Mills Monday mid-

The workers have called an 8-hour hartal in the industrial belt of Khulna today to protest "the killing of labourers and police atrocities on them" during their strike and barricade programme.

The hartal was announced at a rally of workers held at Khalishpur yesterday with Sarder Motahar Uddin in the

Meanwhile, in a joint statement, the labour leaders rejected the government press note issued on Monday's clashes, saving "it was aimed at confusing the people."

They said, they had tried to resolve the crisis through dialogue, but "the government avoided this path and resorted to repression to suppress the movement."

Moreover, the government was reluctant to implement the accords, signed four times with the workers, they

Bangladesh Bank Training

Academy, the seminar was at-

tended by executive directors

and general managers of the

Bangladesh Bank and senior

officials of different nation-

alised and private commercial

Governor Mahbubur Rahman

Khan presided over the semi-

nar, held in the central bank's

Gunmen kills 17

in Karachi

Gunmen have killed 17 people.

including a policeman and four

activists of the ruling Pakistan

People's Party (PPP), in the

southern port city of Karachi

in the past 24 hours, police

bodies of the policeman and

the four PPP activists had been

found dumped in an aban-

doned car in the city's district

sibility, but police and resi

dents linked the killings with

a local feud between PPP

workers and the ethnic

Mohajir National Movement

(MQM) in which 12 people

have been killed in the past

The Sindh provincial gov-

ernment, controlled by Prime

Minister Benazir Bhutto's PPP.

has been holding inconclusive

talks with the militant MQM

which has wide support among

Karachi's Urdu-speaking ma-

No group claimed respon-

west early today.

few months.

They said the bullet-riddled

said today, reports Reuter.

KARACHI, Pakistan, Feb 14:

conference room.

Bangladesh Bank Deputy

claimed.

Exemptions from VAT

From Page 1 Col 3 task, Hannan said, an effective audit system is to be developed to check evasion of tax. "In of the reality in Bangladesh, we would also require strict enforcement to stop evasion," he added.

The former NBR member. however, noted with satisfaction that the impact of VAT on revenue receipts had been very positive following the introduction of the tax modality in July 1991.

While tax revenue grew by 17 per cent in 1989-90 over 1988-89 and 16 per cent in 1990-91 over 1989-90, the same grew at 19 per cent in 1991-92 over 1990-91 and 16 per cent in 1992-93 over 1991-92.

The NBR collected VAT amounting to Tk 2730 crore in 1993-94, which was Tk 2563.73 crore in 1992-93.

The supplementary duty, a tax on luxuries and a part of the VAT system, also grew in significant rates. The collection was Tk 43.02 crore in 1991-92; Tk 1012.35 erore in 1992-93 and Tk 1262.38 crore in 1993-94.

"Since these are expressed in current prices and the rate of inflation was much higher before 1991-92 than that at present, it is inferred that tax collection has grown in real terms after the introduction of

VAT," Hannan said. As a result, he added, the tax-GDP ratio, which had remained more or less stagnant before, increased from 8.00 in 1989-90 to 9.40 in 1993-94.

Organised by the

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BGMEA mid-term polls tomorrow By Staff Correspondent

Elections to pick one-third of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters' Association's (BGMEA) 27member executive committee will be held tomorrow at its headquarters at Kawranbazar.

Under the newly promulgated Trade Organisation Ordinance, 94, all trade bod ies, having a full-fledged exec utive committee (EC) for two or three-year terms, have to organise mid-term elections for one-third of the posts, to be vacated through resignation of the members. Resignation of the one-third EC members. under the law, has to be decided through lottery.

In tomorrow's elections about 900 voters of the BGMEA would elect nine members for a 27-member executive committee, formed in 1993. Of the nine seats to be filled, seven are from the Dhaka quota and two from the Chittagong quota.

Two panels are contesting the poll - one led by incumbent president Redwan Ahmed, MP, and the other, by Noor-e-Alam Siddigi. Managing Director of Doreen Apparels Limited.

Contestants for the elections from the Sammilito Nirbachani Parishad of Redwan Ahmed are Abul Quashem Haider. Abdus Salam Morshedi. Md A Moin. Col (Retd) M Anwarul Azim, Md Atiqul Islam, Alhaj Md Bazlur Rahman, Md Shahidur Huq. Md Hanif Chowdhury and Shahabuddin Ahmed Chowdhury. Noor-e-Alam Siddiqi, Anisul Huq. ASM Qushem. Anisur Rahman Sinha, Lufti M Ayub, Yahya Khan, Md Wazir Afzal, Hafiz Ahmed Majumder and Shah Alam are contesting from the other panel.

Voting will be held from 9 am to 5 pm.

PM honoured From Page 1 Col 8

President of IAAE Nikolai N Khaladiansent and its secretary Elloida P. Mishevtseva, in their letter highly appreciated Begum Zia's determination to improve the educational, social, cultural fabrics of Bangladesh and achieve the

cation. "We admire your active support for all educational organisations to implement innovative programmes to eliminate adult illiteracy in your coun-

goal of universal access to edu-

try," they said. US President Bill Clinton has also been conferred with this honorary degree and academic gown by the IAAE, where hundreds of authoritative Russian scientists, scholars and academicians are engaged in various professional

IOM chief in city

James N Purcell Jr, Director General of the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day official visit, reports BSS.

"We have excellent cooperation in some projects in Bangladesh and we will explore further cooperation," he told newsmen at the Zia International Airport on Arrival.

Dr. Shah Mohammad Farid. Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Manpower, received him at the airport.

The IOM extended valuable assistance to Bangladesh in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis when a large number of Bangladeshis were stranded in Kuwait and Iraq.

The IOM organised the repatriation of the stranded Bangladeshis from the Gulf. It is devoted to creation of congenial condition for the migrant workers on global basis.

Bangladesh is an active member of the organisation. Purcell said. The IOM has 55 members and many others as observers.

AL condemns killing of workers

The Bangladesh Awami League has condemned the "ruthless" killing of workers during their peaceful observance of the barricade programme, reports UNB.

"When, in the holy month of Ramadan, the workers are engaged peacefully in their constitutional struggle, the present government, claiming to be democratic, is perpetrating ruthless killings, arrest and repression on workers," said a statement issued yesterday by acting president of the party Abdul Mannan and general

secretary Zillur Rahman. The AL leaders urged the government to shun the path of repression and to settle the dispute by meeting their just demands'.

The leaders also asked the government to pay proper compensation to the families of the victims, provide treat ment for the injured and release the arrested workers.



in police action earlier on the day in the city. Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam (L) is also seen. -Star photo

Photographers injured

Prime Ministerat her Hare

Road official residence, com-

plained to Begum Zia about

this latest incident of police

excess against journalists.

Visibly perturbed by the inci-

dent, the PM asked the Home

Minister, who was present, to

take immediate action against

those involved in this totally

Chowdhury then went to the

hospital later in the evening to

visit Emran. Health Minister

Kamal Ibne Yusuf, when in-

formed about the matter, ad-

vised senior doctors at the

hospital to ensure proper

treatment of the injured

port late last night Emran's

Shibir

From Page 1 Col 7

Later, they lobbed more

than 15 teargas shells to bring

Witnesses said, the proces-

sionists tried to provoke the

police by taunting them and

throwing stones at them and

passing vehicles. But the police

failed to take prompt enough

action to disperse the mob

although they were well equi-

pped with anti-riot equipment.

said AK Fazlul Haque, an

engineer, who was passing

through the area in his car at

group of ICS activists came out

with sticks and started damag-

ing the windshields of cars

which got stuck there and in

A number of passengers, in-

cluding some women, were

the adjoining areas.

A few moments later a

the situation under control.

pedestrians alike.

condition was still serious.

At the time of filing this re-

pressman.

the time.

Home Minister Abdul Matin

unwarranted, senseless act.

From Page 1 Col 7 pher was being roughed up. other photographers including Emran rushed to the scene to take snaps.

The Daily Star's Emran. caught in melee, was punched twice in the face by a constable and fell flat on the sidewalk. Three other constables then pounced on him, hitting him with clubs and kicking at him wildly. They were heard saying. "This should teach you a lesson not to take pictures that embarrass us.

One wild swing at Emran's head missed its target but fractured two of his bones, the sixth and seventh cervical vertebrae. Emran immediately fell unconscious.

Regaining consciousness at the DMCH later in the afternoon. Emran told this correspondent that while he was being beaten up, he had recognised one of the police inspectors standing nearby whom he desperately implored for help. But unfortunately, the said officer, who knew Emran well, simply did not respond and instead faded from the scene, leaving the youngman totally at the mercy of his

high-handed subordinates. Rescued by other photographers. Emran was first taken to the nearby Royal Clinic and later shifted to the DMCH.

Doctors at the DMCH suggested he be immediately shifted to the orthopaedic hospital where the doctors feared for his life.

Due to the impact of blows below his leftt ear, the fractured bones have put pressure on his spinal cord. As a result. the right side of his body has already begun to show signs of immobility.

In the evening, journalists, at an ifter party hosted by the

Radar purchase case

Hearing against

Ershad deferred

corruption case against de-

posed President Hussam Mu-

hammad Ershad and four

others, including two former

air chiefs, was adjourned yes-

and senior Special Judge M

Abdus Salam fixed March 15

due to indisposition of the

tan Mahmud and Air Vice-Mar-

shal (retd) Momtazuddin Ah-

med, Shahzad Ali and AKM

Musa, both directors of United

Traders, Dhaka are the other

UN advances date

for transfer of

power in Kabul

UN special mission to Afgha-

nistan today decided to ad-

power in Kabul amidst a seem-

new Taliban militant army, re-

said the mission led by Mah-

moud Mestiri will go to Kabul

by February 18 for a "peaceful

A statement issued here

District and Sessions Judge

The hearing was adjourned

Air Vice-Marshal (retd) Sul-

terday, reports BSS.

for the next hearing.

prosecutor.

co-accused.

ports AFP.

transfer of power.

The hearing of charge in a

also injured, witnesses added. One AIDS patient detected in Sylhet From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 14: A patient reportedly carrying the AIDS virus has been detected in Baralekha thana of Moulvibazar district recently.

Selim Uddin, 34, of village Borne, who had been employed in Abu Dhabi, was deported to Bangladesh last month. He was reportedly under treatment at an Abu Dhabi hospital

· Dr Badrul Gani, a retired pathologist of the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital, screened him and found him carrying the deadly HIV-positive disease. The hospital authorities later referred Selim to the IPGM&R

3 Tamils held for taking snaps of Chandrika's office

COLOMBO, Feb 14: Sri Lankan police arrested three Ta-ISLAMABAD, Feb 14: The mil men photographing the office here of President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who is vance the date for transfer of believed to be a target of Tamil Tiger guerillas, press reports ingly inexorable advance by the said today, says AFP.

The men were arrested by Kumaratunga's elite Presiden tial Security Division and the Criminal Investigation Department deployed two units to investigate the case, the staterun Daily News said.

Osmany's death anniversary tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The 11th anniversary of death of the Commander in Chief of the Liberation War Bangabir General MAG Osmany will be observed tomorrow

Different socio-cultural and political organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to mark the occasion.

The Sylhet Division Move ment and Development Council will hold a discussion on Liberation War and Role of Osmany in Democracy" today at 3 pm at the auditorium of the Jatiya Press Club. The discussion will be followed by a doamahfil and liter party.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will attend the programme as the chief guest

U Nu dead

YANGON, Feb 14: The first prime minister of independent Myanmar U Nu. died here today at the age of 88, a family source said, reports AFP.

U Nu. a former school master and writer, died quietly at his home in West Yangon this afternoon, the source said. No details were given.

A founder and leader of the Non-Aligned Movement from 1955. U Nu served three ter ms as premier from independence in January 1948 until he was overthrown in a military coup in 1962.

Undaunted by periods of jail and exile, he returned to politics during the 1988 prodemocracy demonstrations declaring himself still the legitimate prime minister and forming a parallel government

The ruling junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), placed him under house arrest on December 29, 1989, where he remained until April 1992.

Land acquisition for anti-flood projects okayed

The central land allotment committee at its 40th meeting held with Land Minister Kabir Hossain in the chair vesterday approved proposals for acquisition of land for various development projects and programme for keeping the Dhaka city free from floods, reports

The projects for which proposals for acquisition of land have been approved are: Digging of four branch canals in Kalyanpur, Badda-Shahjanpur canal digging and development project. Katashur canal digging and development project, Ramchandrapur canal digging and development project under Dhaka Wasa, construction of embankment from Lalbagh Kella to Islambagh under the Water Development Board. Tongi-Ashulia-Jirabo-EPZ road under the Roads and Highways Department, construction of flood control embankment under Bhairab Kashimpur sub-project, land development of low-lying areas adjacent to the Sonargaon Hotel, Malibagh-Rampura connecting road project under Rajuk and construction of a cricket stadium under the

Jatiya Krira Parishad. The meeting also approved proposal for acquisition of some land for expansion of the Wills Little Flower School.

Corruption case against former Rajuk member

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption yesterday filed a case with Motifheel thana against Major (retd) AFM Kamrul Hasan, a former Member (Land and Estate) Rajuk and two government employees, reports BSS.

According to a press release. Major Hasan by abusing his official position and in connivance with Abul Hashem and MA Kais Sarwar, accountant and accounts officer of the Ministry of Lands and Works respectively, cheated one Golam Mowla Chowdhury of Tk 6 lakh by preparing false pa-

The matter came to light after Major Hasan was suspended and the accused failed to realise the rest of the

12 hurt in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 14: At least 12 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of youths at Talla in the

town today.

Of the injured. Wasim, 20, and Apu. 8, were admitted to the Narayangani Hospital. while Roni, 20, and Tipu. 12 were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses said, a group of youths of Nagarkhanpur attacked their rivals in Khanpur in front of the Bibi Mariam Girls' School for reasing the girl students.

The warring groups opened fire, explored cocktails and used lethal weapons during the clash which lasted about half an hour

The Midnight File

tional Park reports AP.

Grand Canyon tour plane crash kills 8

TUSAYAN. Arizona. Feb 14: A plane flying tourists over the Grand Canyon lost an engine, crashed and burned while trying to return to an airport, killing eight of the 10 people aboard. Killed in the crash Monday were seven passengers, all Taiwanese nationals, and the pilot, a Nevada man. Two other passengers, both women from Taiwan, were critically injured, said Maureen Oltrogge, a spokeswoman for Grand Canyon Na-

Benazir renews offer to India for talks on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD. Feb 14: Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto renewed an offer to India for meaningful talks on resolving the bilateral Kashmir dispute, in a statement published here today. The eight non-papers, informal proposals exchanged between the two countries in the past, could form the basis for a resumption of dialogue. Bhutto told local journalists Monday, reports AFP.

Chechnya: Estonia for early recognition

TALLINN, Feb 14: The Estonian parliament, in an open challenge to Moscow. voted overwhelmingly on Monday in favour of recognising the breakaway Russian province of Chechnya as soon

as possible, reports Reuter. A resolution, apparently backed by the government. called for recognition of Chechnya at the first available opportunity as soon as the international situation makes it possible.

The Kremlin, which ruled Estonia for more than two centuries, had already protested about the debate in the Baltic nation's parliament, local news media in Tallinn reported.

The Russian Foreign Ministry, complaining to Estonia's ambassador in Moscow on Friday, described it as "an apparent interference in the internal affairs of the Russian federation.

US to finance

From Page 1 Col 4 for phased elimination of child labour from the country's garment sector

Meeting sources said the US delegation observed that the current education programmes are scattered and need to be made comprehensive and better coordinated.

The mission assured adequate financial support from the US government for a comprehensive and coordinated programme for the education of child labour.

Some 10,000 garment workers aged between 12 and 14 have been identified for inservice education programmes.

Five schools, where under age garment workers will receive two-hour education after six hours of work for five consecutive years, will soon start, under an ILO programme the International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)

At least 25 to 30 schools will be required for bringing all the 10,000 workers in the education programme, according to an NGO which will run the schools under the IPEC programme.

The use of under-age workers in the garment factories became a matter of concern in 1992 when a US lawmaker mooted a Bill in the Congress seeking import ban on sectors using child labour.

The Bill likely to be revived soon, after remaining in the shelf for two years, particularly targeted Bangladesh's garment sector. The two billion dollar local garment sector heavily relys on the US market.

Digital Phone From Page 1 Col 7-

"Presently, we need a Cl' to increase our service trunk and some 30 to 35 circuits to avoid jams in telephone lines," said Javed Rabbani.

"However, we are trying to create a balance among the two CPs through correction of software, as recommended by NEC of Japan which provided our digital system," he added. Other sources in the T and

T Board informed The Daily Star that the Maghbazar exchange has some 9500 digital lines, which is much more than the system can accom modate and is therefore over loaded. No new digital lines are be-

ing installed in the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and Uttara ex changes for the last six months. Persons applying for a digital line are being given analogue connections as compensatory measure, the sources added.

There are only 10,000 digital connections under the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar exchange. 10,000 under Gulshan, 4,000 under Mirpur. 4000 under Uttara and the remaining 19,000 for Maghbazar and Nilkhet. Yet more than a lakh applications for new phone lines are pending with the T and T Board.

The government plans to install 1.30 lakh new digital lines in the next few years, of which, 40,000 lines would replace the whole analogue under the Ramna exchange the sources added

Chechnya, a small tradi-

tionally Muslim region in the

northern Caucasus, declared

independence in 1991 but

failed to win international recognition. Moscow sent in its troops two months ago. killing and wounding large numbers of people AP reports : A Ukrainian ultranationalist said Tuesday that his group has sent fighters to

Chechnya and is also seeking

ways to oust Russian President Boris Yeltsin. "Our main goal is to overturn Yeltsin's regime and disintegrate the Russian state in its present form," Dmytro Korchinsky, a leader of the Ukrainian National Assembly

Party told a news conference. Another party leader. Anatoly Lupinos, said the assembly has about 150 people fighting in Chechnya against the Russians.

We want Russia's regions to secede and orient themselves toward Ukraine instead. Lupinos explained.

Writ

From Page 1 Col 3 cause of action and therefore it

was not maintainable. The affidavit further says that the petitioner has no locus standi and his petition suffers from defect of parties because none of the MPs who

Sheikh Hasina, Moudud Ahmed and Motiur Rahman Nizami- were made party to the writ.

have resigned, except three -

The act of the Speaker in disposing of the resignation letters was in conformity with the constitutional provision,

the affidavit stated. The petitioner's counsel will place his arguments today before the three-member bench comprising Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman, Justice Kazi Ebadul Huq and Justice

Md Abdul Karim. Earlier, Advocate Moksudur Rahman concluded his submissions in the other writ filed by one Taufiq Hossain, which challenged the validity of the en bloc resignation by the op-

position MPs. On the question of maintainability of the writ, Advocate Rahman argued that the collective resignations were nothing but a design to create problems in the running of

Parliament. On conclusion of advocate Rahman's submission. Barrister Moudud Ahmed, one of the respondents, made a short submission on his own behalf while Barrister KS Nabi and Barrister Abdur Razzaque submitted on behalf of the two other respondents - Sheikh Hasina and Motiur Rahman

Nizami respectively. Rubber assoc

From Page 1 Col 4 and a rubber board set up. However, no further meet-

ing of the cell was held till date and no progress has been achieved in this regard. He held a particular deputy secretary in the Ministry of

Environment and Forest responsible for the non-implementation of the decision regarding a rubber board, and added that due to the absence of such a board private rubber planters have to rush from one office to another and from one official to the other for a deci-

The association also urged the government to provide the private rubber plantation owners with low-interest loans, in centive bonuses and to extend the loan repayment time because their gardens were badly damaged during the catastrophic storms of 1991 and

Malik also said that despite a decision for sending 50 rubber garden owners of the country to Malaysia. Indonesia, Thatland and India for training so far nothing has been done. The association's advisor

Abul Fazl Chowdhury, vice

presidents Khandaker Azizul Haq. Kazi Shahadat Hussain Kazi Ruhul Amin, secretary Mahbubur Rahman Chowdhury and joint secretary Anwar Hussain were also present at the press conference

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