Opposition bid to form coalition in Manipur

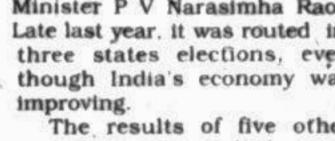
NEW DELHI, Feb 23: No party won a majority in the Manipur state election, and opposition groups tried to form a coalition today to take control of the legislature from

the Congress Party, reports AP. The governing Congress Party emerged the single largest group with 21 seats. followed by 18 for the regional Manipur People's Party, United News of India reported. The Janata Dal Party won seven. and the other 13 were won by independents or six small parties, the news agency said.

Chief Minister Rishang Keishing of the Congress Party said he expects the governor to ask him to form a coalition government in Manipur.

But the Manipur People's Party was trying to do that today and expected to team up with the Janata Dal and other

If it forms a governing coalition, that would be the latest in a series of setbacks for the Congress Party of Prime



The results of five other state elections will be anthe Congress Party loses them that could force Rao to slow nomic reforms, and make it difficult for his party to win

One of the five upcoming state elections will be held in the independent Election Commission has warned that it could postpone the ballot because of a violent campaign

Garments factory equipment recovered: 9 held

By Staff Correspondent

Detective police yesterday arrested nine persons accused of robbery in the Jamuna Fashion Wear Garments at Mohakhali in the city. The arrests were made during a two-day drive in Dhaka and Narayangani. Police also recovered goods and machinery of the garments factory worth about Tk six lakh.

The arrested persons were identified as Abdul Jalil Mollah. A Hamid, Abdul Mannan alias Moon, Shah Alam, Hossain Khan, Md Yunus, Anwar Hossain, Md Zuhlas and Milon.

They reportedly looted goods and machinery worth about Tk 10 lakh from the Jamuna Garments Factory on February 6 midnight.

Boy killed in cracker blast

By Staff Correspondent A teenage boy was killed when a cracker in a shopping bag he was carrying exploded

in the city yesterday evening. Two others were injured in the explosion at West Nakhalpara, according to sources.

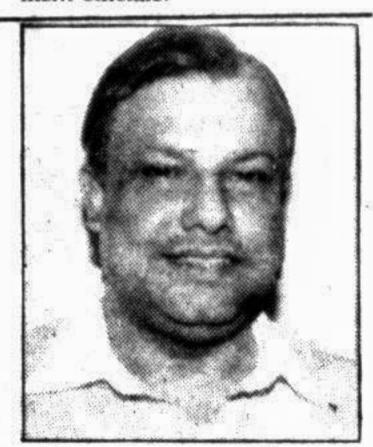
The deceased, Igbal, 19. was carrying some crackers in a polythene bag, sources

Minister P V Narasimha Rao. Late last year, it was routed in three states elections, even though India's economy was

nounced next month, and if down his free-market ecothe next general election in

Bihar state next month, but and widespread fears of election fraud.

Many opposition parties have complained that Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav of the Janata Dal Party is intimidating candidates and transferring honest state government officials.



Redwan re-elected BGMEA president

By Staff Correspondent

Redwan Ahmed, a member of Parliament from the ruling BNP, was re-elected president of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) yester-

Other office-bearers of the BGMEA executive body are S M Fazlul Hug -1st vice president, M A Taher - 2nd vice president, Nurul Haque Sikder vice president and M Jinnat Ali Mianh — treasurer.

Members of the election Board Lt Col (retd) Anisuzzaman and Safiullah Chowdhury conducted the elections held at the BGMEA conference room.

Earlier on February 16, onethird of the members of the 27-member executive committee of the trade body were elected through direct voting.

Khaleda: Direct talks

From Page One their demands in the House. not to deprive them of their of the country."

The Prime Minister said that if her government had got cooperation from the Opposition, the achievements could be much more than what had been attained during the past three and a half years.

Giving a long list of development activities accomplished by this government, she said "If we still get their cooperation we will be able to march forward to build a happy Bangladesh.

Begum Zia pointed out that under parliamentary system. the ruling party and the Opposition worked together for the development of the country. "One can not help the people by keeping oneself away from his duties".

The BNP Chairperson said the next year will be the century 25th year of our indepen-

Pak-Bangla ties excellent, says new Pak envoy

The new Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh vesterday described the Dhaka-Islamabad relations as "excellent" and hoped that the bilateral ties would be further strengthened in the coming days, reports UNB.

"We want a problem-free relation between Dhaka and Islamabad," High Commissionerdesignate Karam Elahi told newsmen at the airport on his arrival in the city.

"There is a lot of understanding and cooperation between the brotherly countries," he said adding that he would try his utmost to contribute to further a mathening of ties between the two

countries. The Pak envoy is expected to present his credentials to President Abdur Rahman Biswas shortly.

A career diplomat, Elahiwas earlier posted in the Pakistan missions in Kabul, Tehran, Belgrade, Washington and London.

dence and we should now take fresh vow for the development

Begum Zia said the BNP government salvaged the country from an economic disaster. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. who addressed the inaugural session of the fifth Parliament as acting President, had said in his speech "Country's economy is shattered," she recalled.

"The elected government has placed the economy on a firm footing," she said, pointing out the mobilisation of domestic resources and record foreign exchange reserve.

· This government's programmes for the development of education have been lauded by foreign countries. So far some Tk 3.500 crore has been spent in the education sector. with priority to spread of education in rural areas. Begum Zia said.

The government has also taken up fresh urban-based education programme involving an expenditure of Tk 60 crore which would start from Dhaka, she said.

Referring to the acute traffic jam and over-population in the capital, the Prime Minister said "considering the problems of the city dwellers our government decided to construct three flyovers at Maghbazar, Sayeedabad and Mohakhali." It will cost about Tk

100 crore, she added. The government has taken up another ambitious housing project in Yousufganj which will provide 30,000 plots. Besides, 3,000 more flats are being constructed for government employees, Begum Zia

said. Mentioning her recent visit to the JMB project site, she said construction work of the multi-million dollar Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge is going on in full swing and is expected to be completed by

1997. Begum Zia said the performance of her government proved that progress and prosperity of the country are possible if there is democracy and a democratic government is in power.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.



A Russian boy holding a poster that reads: "No peace without justice" stands between demostrators lying on the ground in front of the Defence Ministry in Moscow yesterday during a protest against the war in Chechnya. - AFP photo

DU drafts list of Liberation War martyrs

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities have prepared a draft list of the martyrs of the Liberation War which will be included in the memorial plague under construction on the campus.

The university authorities in a press release vesterday urged that if anyone has any proposal for addition, change or correction in the list they may contact the Chief Engineer of the university by March 9.

The memorial plague will contain the names of martyred teachers, students, officers and employees of the univer-

DU student stabbed

By Staff Correspondent

A student of the Dhaka Uni versity was stabbed at the Ekushey Boi Mela (book fair)

premises vesterday evening. The victim, Liton, 22, is a second year student of the Statistics Department.

Witnesses said that Liton criticised and exchanged abusive words with a young man for dancing with a girl in front of a stall in the mela.

The young man and his friends then attacked Liton and stabbed him on his head and neck, sources said. Later, some of the friends of Liton rushed to the spot and took him to the Dhaka Medical

College Hospital.

Dhaka invited to attend OIC expert group meet

Bangladesh has been invited to attend an OIC expert group meeting on the role of women in development to be held in mid April in Iran, reports

Ambassador of Iran to Bangladesh Mahmood Bayat conveyed the invitation to the State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman at her office yester-

The state minister has also been invited to attend the meeting, said an official handout yesterday.

The ambassador also conveyed the Iranian Women's Affairs Minister's invitation to Begum Sarwari Rahman for a state visit according to her convenience.

The State Minister expressed thanks to the government of Iran and hoped that the existing friendship between the two countries would be strengthened further in the

From Page One

the AL chief said.

he does not like it But he

4 killed, 7 hurt in Savar, Sirajganj road mishaps lost control and hit them at 9

Four people including a school girl were killed and seven seriously injured in separate road accidents in Savar and Siraigani vesterday, reports UNB.

Hena Akhtar, 14, a student of class V of Doshaid High School in Savar thana was killed on the spot after a Dhaka-bound bus hit her in front of M . H Hall of Jahangirnagar University on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway at 7:30 am, police and witnesses

Hena, daughter of Jamir Ali of village Aukhpara met the accident as she was crossing the

Another Dhaka-bound bus knocked down an unidentified young woman, 26, at 10 am at Baliampur on the highway.

In another accident at Jainabari in Hemayetpur, seven people were injured when a speeding Aricha-bound coach am vesterday.

The injured were sent to local hospitals and Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A Sirajganj report says. Two

people were killed in separate road accidents in two thanas of the district vesterday. Police said Farhad Hossain. 31. a van-puller, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding

thana at 10 am. Police seized the truck, but the driver fled scene.

truck on Sirajganj-Belkuchi

road at Dighalkandhi in Sadar

in another accident. Abul Kashem, 37, was run over on Bogra-Nagarbari highway at Chandaikona in Raigani thana yesterday.

Witnesses said Kashem met the accident when a Nagarbaribound truck knocked him down from behind at 11 am.

Separate cases were filed with the local police.

Resignations rejected

From Page One cratic process, clearly stipulated in the Constitution, he added.

Article 67 (2) of the Consti tution says: "A member of Parliament may resign his seat by writing under his hand, addressed to the Speaker and the seat shall become vacant when the writing is received by the Speaker or, if the office of the Speaker is vacant or the Speaker is for any reason unable to perform his functions. by the Deputy Speaker."

"We have to read Article 67 (2) of the Constitution together with rules 177 and 178 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament" the Speaker

Article 177 of the Rules of Procedure (ROP) says: "A member who desires to resign his seat in Parliament shall intimate, in writing under his hand, addressed to the Speaker, his intention to resign his seat in the House and shall not give any reason for his resignation.

"Provided that if any member gives any reason or introduces any extraneous matter, the Speaker may, in his discretion, omit such words. phrases or matter and the same shall not be read out in the House."

"The reason assigned and en masse resignation by 144 members of Parliament assigning reason already indicated is designed to frustrate the democratic process and push the country into a constitutional crisis with unpredictable consequences," the Speaker said in pin-drop silence in the House.

Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum Khaleda

Zia was present at that time. "I am clearly of the opinion that these resignation letters which contained reasons opposed to the very concept of democracy and contrary to the fundamental principles of state policy are not-contemplated by Article 67 (2) of the Constitution," Razzak Ali said in the

penultimate paragraph of the

19-page ruling. He gave a background and described vividly how the res ignation letters were submit ted to him on December 28 and what happened next.

Mentioning a previous ruling given on a point of order of Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, the Speaker said:"I put off my decision because of two writs in the High Court. He also reiterated that he had mentioned in his ruling on that occasion that the Speaker had the authority to decide upon the resignation letters of the opposition MPs.

The Attorney General informed him yesterday afternoon that the High Court bench had dismissed both the writs and therefore he decided to give his ruling, Razzak Ali

In the ruling, the Speaker cited constitutional provisions of several other countries and references of some important and relevant cases.

It took him almost an hour to read out the ruling. He had to skip three pages and several paragraphs because of time constraint.

Following the ruling, Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum Zia gave her winding up speech before the prorogation of the eighteenth session of the Fifth Parliament. elected on February 27, 1991.

Opposition rebuffs ruling totally undermined the institu-

has no right to reject those,' Hasina said the Speaker is tion letters of opposition MPs. being used as a weapon for fulfilling the wishes of the ruling

party and its chief. He is just implementing the decision of BNP standing committee, she alleged. In fact, the Speaker and the government are working liament.

against the hopes and aspirations of the people and thereby prolonging the rule of BNP. through time-killing tactics. Hasina said. The Speaker has under-

mined the dignity of his office and sanctity of the Constitution because he is involved in implementing the blueprint of the ruling BNP, Hasina said. She also said Parliament has been turned into a one-party

and illegal House following the

resignation of the opposition "We have resigned from Parliament to give democracy an institutional shape and materialise the hopes and aspirations of the people and

our resignations will remain

effective" she added.

Jativa Party (JP) acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said "The Speaker has no legal and even moral authe Speaker has not served the thority to reject the resignacause of democracy. "He has

Quoting Article 67 (2) of the Constitution, the JP leader said the Constitution clearly and eategorically laid the conditions under which a member would lose his set in the Par-

"I do not know under what authority he (Speaker) could reject the resignation letters, Mizan Chowdhury told The Leader of the Jatiya Party

parliamentary group Moudud Ahmed, giving his reaction to The Daily Star, said the "socalled" decision of the Speaker is illegal and completely unconstitutional. The Speaker has neither

any right nor any power under the Constitution to make this kind of statement, Moudud said, adding this "so-called" decision is meaningless and does not carry any significance. Moudud said the Speaker has given the decision not as a

Speaker, but as a man of the

ruling party. The Speaker has

tion of the Speaker by violating the Constitution, he said. The JP leader further said

tried to keep the ruling party in power as long as possible by keeping alive the dead Parltament," Moudud said. "We, therefore, reject the so-called decision of the Speaker. This action of the Speaker is part of a conspiracy

of the government to stay in power," he said. This will just plunge the country into a deeper crisis with grave consequence instead of solving the present political impasse, he said and added it would only complicate

the issue further. About their next programme. Moudud said they (Opposition) would sit together and decide their next

bas Ali Khan, Matiur Rahman Nizami, Advocate Sheikh Ansar Ali and Abdul Qader Molla were not available over telephone for their comments last night because all of them were out of the capital.

Top Jamaat leaders like Ab-

Jute workers' mourning procession today

Jute and textile workers will stage demonstrations in the capital today to protest killings and police action during their rail and road block ade programme, reports UNB.

They will bring out a mourning procession after a protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club at 3 pm

Addressing a press confer ence in the city yesterday Convenor of Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad Abul Bashar claimed that 15 people were killed in police action during their blockade programmes in January and this month. Another four workers remained missing, he

The dead included Abul Kalam, Abdul Latif, Mukim, Dulal. Straj. Hashem Khan, Abdul Halim, Taijuddin, Abdul Mannan, Solaiman and Bachchu Mia, he said

One beaten to death in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Feb 23: One person was reportedly beaten to death by a mob and another brick-field owner was abducted for ransom by unidentified gunmen here in separate incidents.

Police said one Kamaluddin caught by a mob at the time of snatching cash and kind from a passer-by at Chandanaish thana area was beaten to death on the spot on Wednesday night. Police later recovered his body

In another incident one brick-field owner Shah Alam Majumder was kidhapped by gunmen from Rangunia thana area on Wednesday afternoon. Police said efforts were on to rescue the victim.

Shibir calls hartal in Ctg, Cox's Bazar tomorrow

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG. Feb 23: The Islami Chhatra Shibir, the stulents wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami has given a call for a halfday hartal in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar on Saturday in protest against the alleged killing here of one of its ac

napped from a city market by gunmen while he went there for Eid shopping on Wednesday afternoon. He was later killed, evewitnesses said. His body was sent to his vil-

lage home for burial after na-

maze-janaza at Laldighi maidan.

Khairul Islam, 28, was kid-

Govt to restrict movements of truck in city, JS told

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury yesterday assured the Jatiya Sangsad that the government will take all possible measures to streamline traffic and restrict movements of trucks in the capital, reports BSS.

Replying to a resolution by private member K J Hamida Khanam on the movements of trucks in the city during day time, he said trucks are barred from plying in the capital between 7 to 9:30 am and again between 4-6 pm to help regulate traffic and reduce case of accidents.

2 Sarbaharamen

From Page One spot. By that time labourers at the site and the local villagers rounded them up and beat them mercilessly. At one stage they gouged out the eyes of the Sarbaharamen. They were handed over to Muladi police and later admitted to Muladi Health Complex.

Police recovered one country-made pistol, six rounds of cartridges and three cocktails from their possession. A case was filed with the police.

Besides, Uzirpur thana police arrested another six Sarbaharamen — Sahabuddin, 25. Mizan ,30, Dulal, 27, Manjur ,28, Saha Alam, 35 and Delwar, 35 from different areas of the thana today.

Cultural exchange From Page One

agreed to exchange educational delegations during the term of the current exchange programme, It was further agreed between the two sides for exchange of delegations of cultural officials and cooperation between the libraries and exchange of literary works and books.

Both the sides will also exchange delegations comprising people from the fields of art. culture and literature. Besides, they will encourage exchange and cooperation between institutions of sports between the two countries. The exchange of delegations of information. broadcasting and television personnel was also agreed.

Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh Zhang Xu-Jiang and other members of the visiting delegation were present at the signing ceremony.

The Midnight Kile

Yeltsin ready to take over control of reforming army

MOSCOW. Feb 23: Russian President Boris Yeltsin said here today that he was ready personally to take over control of reforming the army, following military inefficiency displayed in the Chechnya conflict. "Chechnya has shown us once again that we have fallen behind in military reform," Yeltsin said after laying a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier to mark armed forces day, reports AFP.

Badruddoza emphasises

JS should be centre of all political activities

Deputy Leader of the Jativa Sangsad Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday emphatically said Parliament should remain the centre of all political activities in the country, reports BSS.

Winding up the discussion in support of the motion of thanks to the January 13 presidential speech. Prof Chowdhury said that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) would continue to pursue its production-oriented politics and run the political affairs of the country at the will of the peo-

The Deputy Leader of the House described the speech delivered by President Biswas as a valuable document which reflected the forward looking approach and political competence with which the BNP government is handling the affairs of the country in all fronts especially in the economic

Touching the unprecelented successes in the economic front of the country, he mentioned the all-time high foreign exchange reserve of Tk 13,000 crore, bringing down the rate of inflation to 1.8 per cent from 9 per cent in 1990-91. allocation of over Tk 4,000 crore from domestic resources for funding the Annual Development Programme during the current fiscal.

He referred to the expansion of trade and commerce through elimination of barriers and bolstering of the stock market where transactions had gone up by five per cent.

The deputy leader also mentioned the implementation of the Jamuna Bridge project at a cost of Tk 3,600 crore, fixation of minimum wages for industrial labourers. preparation of draft labour law. declaring shrimp culture as an industry and making paper pulp from green jute.

The Deputy Leader of the House urged the politicians irrespective of political beliefs and opinions, to rise above petty party interest and work for the country and democracy and for the welfare of the people through making the Jatiya Sangsad as the centre of all political activities. The House then adopted a

resolution on the motion moved by L K Siddigui on January 25 thanking President Abdur Rahman Biswas for his inaugural speech before the Jatiya Sangsad on January 23. Earlier, L K Siddiqui lam-

ticising 'double standard' in politics. Participating in the discussion in support of his motion

of thanks to the January 23

basted the Opposition for prac-

said the opposition members were trying to enjoy all the facilities provided to a Parliament member even after they tendered their resignation

from the Sangsad. "This can not be allowed." he said citing an example at the VIP Lounge of the Zia International Airport where the Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders were enjoying VIP facilities on December 29 although they had tendered their resignation the day be-

L K Siddigui said even the Speaker came under bitter criticism of the opposition parties. And he was charged with dilly-dallying about the resignations of the 147 MPs. he said. He said if the opposition members resign en masse

from the Jativa Sangsad, no

Sangsad could fulfil its tenure.

He said that the concessions

given to the oppositions in the

Sangsad was considered by

them as 'weakness' of the government He emphatically said that Parliament would complete its tenure at any cost.

A former state minister. Siddiqui told the Sangsad that there existed one and a half crore ghost voters in the country. He urged the Prime Minister to take necessary steps regarding the ghost vot-

from tomorrow Dhaka University will remain closed for 10 days from

DU Eid vacation

tomorrow on the occasion of the holy Eid-ul-Fitr. Classes of the university will resume on March 7 New rail lines

suggested constructing a rail track between Joydevpur and Bhuapur in Tangail district to cut down the distance from Dhaka by 86 km as well as in-

From Page One

A senior BR official told The Daily Star that the final survey of 51 km out of the proposed 86 km Jovdevpur-Bhuapur line has already been completed.

Sources said the proposed

crease passenger and freight.

Dhaka-Laksam line would also slash the distance between Dhaka and Chittagong by 81 They said the road communication between Dhaka and Chittagong has improved with

the construction of the

Meghna-Gumti bridges, result-

ing in the decrease in the number of train passengers. If the proposed chord line is built, trains from Dhaka will reach Chittagong in four hours,

the sources added. presidential speech. Siddiqui Writs dismissed

to uphold their constitutional rights.

In his separate observation. Justice Kazi Ebadul Hug refereed to the relevant constitutional provisions and rules of procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad and held that the court has no jurisdiction to interfere into the affairs of the resignation of the 147 opposi tion MPs. He also upheld the Speaker's right to scrutinise the resignation letters.

Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, the government counsel, prayed for condoning the 37-day period of the stay order on the Speaker from the stipulated 90 days required for holding the by elections in the vacant seats.

In his decision the presiding judge said that since the court issued the rule (on the Speaker) on January 18 and the matter was before the court till February 23, this period should be excluded from the 90 days permitted to the Election Commission by the Constitution to hold the byelections.

The lawyers of the opposition leaders, however, opposed the prayer of the government counsel, saying that altering the time limit for holding byelections would require a constitutional amendment and that the court had no jurisdiction to condone it.

The two writs were filed in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court on January 16 after the resignation of the 147 opposition MPs on December 28 last year to press home their demand for hold ing the next general elections under a neutral, caretaker gov

ernment. The court subsequently issued rules upon the respondents on January 18.

After preliminary hearing, a division bench, comprising Justice A M Mahmudur Rah man and Justice Hamidul Huq. issued a rule upon the Speaker, the Parliament Secretary, the Law Secretary, the Election Commission, Sheikh Hasina, Moudud Ahmed, and Matiur Rahman Nizami to show cause why the collective resignations should not be declared illegal and void.

The court also directed the Speaker to refrain from giving any decision on the resignation letters till the disposal of the petitions. The special bench of the

High Court Division was constituted on January 30 by the Chief Justice following a prayer by the counsels for the respondent opposition leaders. Hearing of the writs began

before the larger bench on February 1 and after 15 days of hearing, the bench began delivering judgement on February In the writ challenging the validity of the resignations. Barrister K S Nabi appeared on

behalf of Awami League president Sheikh Hasina, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, parliamentary party leader of Jatiya Party. on his own behalf, and Barrister Abdur Razzaque appeared on behalf of Matiur Rahman Nizami, the parliamentary party leader of the Jamaat. In the writ challenging the Speaker's role A B M Nurul Is-

lam appeared for the petitioner while Abdul Wadud Khandaker and Barrister Asrarul Hossain appeared for the Speaker.