Gunbattle around BNP MP's house in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 14: At least 10 people were injured in sporadic gunfights and bomb blasts in the port city today, the sixth day of the noncooperation movement. They were admitted to the

Chittagong Medical College Hospital and private clinics. Police said, the residence of BNP leader and MP-elect Golam Akbar Khondakar at Mehdibag was attacked by opposi-

tion activists Police opened tire to disperse the attackers. According to witnesses, police and opposition activists traded gunfire

for some time. When contacted Golam Akbar alleged that the opposition activists hurled bombs at his residence damaging the win-

dowpanes. In the face of firing by police the activists fled the

spot. Akbar said Witnesses said, after the attack on Akbar's residence. JCD activists were locked in a gunbattle with their opponents for about two hours at Mehdibag and around the medical college hospital campus. Both the

groups also blasted bombs. One Md. Shafi (20) and Biplob) (20) identified as BCL activists, received bullet wounds during the battle Eight others were injured in clashes at Agrabad Hajipara and at Shershah colony in

One Suman (23) was admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital with stab in-

Besides, there were sporadic bomb blasts in the port city creating panic among the

Meanwhile, the Chittagong port remained inoperative for the sixth consecutive day today. Some fifty cargo vessels still remain stranded

Shops and markets were closed. Banks. offices - both private and public, trading houses were closed. The main business centres at Agrabad and Khatungonj wore a deserted look.

However, during relaxation hours of non-cooperation, few shops were opened and banks had poor transaction

Egypt summit pledges to fight terrorism

SHARME-EL-SHEIKH, Egypt, Mar 14: Presidents, kings and other leaders of 27 countries from North America to the Gulf have lent their support to Israéli and Palestinian leaders at a critical moment in the Middle East peace process, reports Reuter.

At a one-day summit in the Red Sea resort of Sharm-el-Sheikh they promised to work together against the political violence which has undermined domestic support for Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Professionals call to cancel Feb 15 polls

A group of leading profes-sionals yesterday called for immediate cancellation of the polls held on February 15 and resignation of the Prime Minister to pave the way for holding the next elections under a caretaker government, reports

In a statement in Dhaka the professionals expressed their grave concern at the deterioration in the present political situation and said democracy and economy were now facing a dangerous consequences as the result of the attitude of the

ruling party. The signatories to the statement included Prof. Syed Modasser Ali of the Bangladesh Medical Association, Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury of the Bangladesh Lawvers' Coordinating Council, Prof. Moslehuddin Ahmad, a former vicechancellor of Jahangirnagar University, Dr. Kazi Shahidul Alam of the Bangladesh Medical Association, Principal Quamruzzaman of the Bangladesh Shikkhak Samity, Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzak of Krishibid Institution, Prof. Akhtaruzzaman of Bangladesh College-University Teachers Association and Dr. Razib Humayun of Bangabandhu Paris-

Young man shot dead in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Mar 14: A young man was shot dead by some unidentified persons near his house here today. The doctors pronounced, him dead when bullet-hit Monir Hossain. 19, was rushed to the Narayanganj Hospital. Monir, son of Abdul Khaleque, resided in a house at West Deobhog Lichubagan area. He was called out of his house by a group of people at around 4:30 am. One hour later, he was found lying on an open field with bullet injury in his head.

BNP replies

From Page 1

Briefing newsmen, BNP office secretary Nazrul Islam Khan said earlier, the party high command at a meeting finalised the outline of the proposed non-party government. BNP chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia

presided over the meeting. Replying to a question, Khan did not spell out the outline of the non-party government but said we have it flexible so that the views of other political parties could be ac-

commodated. President Abdur Rahman Biswas on March 12 sent letters to the chiefs of different political parties and groups represented in the fifth Parliament requesting them to communicate immediately their views on the outline for formation of a non-party gov-

ernment. Meanwhile, the BNP reiterated its call to the opposition parties to withdraw their noncooperation programme for the sake of the peace and the country, Khan said.

But a final statement from the "Summit of peacemakers" hastily convened after suicide bombers killed 58 people in Israel, was short on details of what they would do to prevent violence and convince ordi-

nary people of the virtues of The statement avoided the most controversial issues, such as naming the countries which support violent dissidents or asking Israel for specific steps to win over Palestinians so desperate they are willing to blow themselves up for their

Official spokesman said governments were happy with the outcome. US Fresident Bill Clinton said the A maxing group of people's had in en 'a historic demonstration of the strength of peace in the Middle East today."

Arafat, embarked on politically risky crackdown on the Islamist organisation Hamas. said the summit had reinforced the peace process and he was confident Israel would meet his most urgent demand - lifting a blockade of Palestinian territories.

Drug-dealer found dead

By Staff Correspondent The body of a youngman bound in a sack was recovered by police in the city's Tejgaon area late Wednesday night.

The body, found in an alley south of the BG Press, bore gunshot wounds in the head and hands.

Teigaon police identified the victim as Abdul Mannan. aged 30, son of Keramat Ali, a resident of 44 North Degun

According to them, Mannan, reportedly a drug-dealer. was picked up by some youths from his brother's video shop at Degun Bari earlier in the

Top lawyers

From Page 1 a caretaker government Amirul Islam submitted to

the President a draft outline on how he could promulgate an ordinance for caretaker

K S Nabi, while talking to this correspondent last night, said. "I told the President that by conceding to the Opposition demand to hold general elections in May, Begum Khaleda Zia herself has admitted that the February poll is illegal."

"Referring to different constitutional provisions concerned, I also showed the President that he enjoyed the right to promulgate an ordinance in line with the Opposition demand."

But Justice T H Khan, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, A R Yousuf and Khandaker Mahbubuddin are learnt to have argued that the President had unfortunately no power to promulgate an ordinance pro-

viding for the formation of a caretaker government. Noting 'the President's "limitations," they argued that he could promulgate any ordinance "without altering any

provision of the Constitution." They also said since the Constitution has no provision for a non-party caretaker government, the Parliament elected through February 15 polls could only amend the

Constitution to that effect. They further argued that once the election of the sixth Parliament was declared null and void, the provision for a caretaker government could in no way be incorporated in the Constitution, which would

further aggravate the political Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed told the President that he could take an effective step to resolve the crisis provided the parties concerned reach an agreement. However, he could not be reached last night for

details information.

* 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.

Rail links remain snapped for third day

Star Report

Rail communication across the country remained totally snapped for the third day yesterday as the Opposition called indefinite non-cooperation programme continued

Meanwhile, the railway authorities failed to deploy security personnel in trains during the non-cooperation programme, demanded by drivers. following mob attacks on train. said a driver requesting anony-

Wailul Islam, Secretary Railway Division was contacted last right for his comment on this issue. Declining to make any comment, Islam, advised The Daily Star correspondent to contact the Director General (Operations) Railway. The DG Railway, however, was not available on phone last night

When contacted, a source in the GRP said. We received let ters from the drivers requesting for escort in each train for operation during the non-cooperation programme."

The sources disclosed that the GRP had only 20 securitymen for Kamalapur railway station and had to requisition 4 platoons from Dhaka Metropolitan Police. Reserve Police, Armed Police Battalion and paramilitary BDR

"We brought to the notice of the drivers that it was not pos sible to provide security escort in each train," the sources

The train drivers claimed that eight of their colleagues were assaulted as they tried to operate trains during the first few days of the non-cooperation movement and their train were stranded at various stations like Bidyagani near Mymensingh, Amirgani near Narsingdi and Neelganj near Kishoreganj.

Industrial loss assessment cell formed

The Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) has formed an industrial loss assessment cell to evaluate the industrial losses being caused by the present pulitical crisis, a press release of the BCI said yesterday, re-

ports BSS. Announcing the formation of the cell, BCI President A M Subid Ali said, in a statement that the burden and liabilities of the industrial loss caused by the political crisis would have to be shouldered by any future

Ali said the nation could see a little hope at the relaxation of the non-cooperation movement in regard to banks, garments factories and shops in the interest of the people, and the demonstration of sincerity by the opposition parties responding to the call of the President for discussion.

BNP suggestions From Page 1

come of the President's move unless the February 15 polls were declared null and void. It has been sent after gathering interpretation of the opposition's letters," said the leader requesting for anonymity.

Meanwhile, top BNP leaders at a meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday, also discussed possibility of the President seeking the opinion of the Supreme Court on the formation of a non-party government and the Opposition demand for scrapping of the February 15 elections - two contentious issues now blocking the solution

of the political impasse. The meeting held at the PM's Tejgaon office, however, did not take any decision as regards the party's suggestion to the President on a reference to the Supreme Court

reference Two top BNP leaders Abdus Salam Talukdar and Rafigul Islam Mia - met the President yesterday evening at the Bangabhaban. Sources close to the two ministers said they have discussed with the President the latest developments in the context of his initiative for ending the political

BNP trying

From Page 1 also fail because of the "conspiracy" by the present He accused the BNP of en-

gaging "its goons armed with automatic weapons" to crush the opposition campaign. Nasim said that the "illegal government" was misleading the nation through false pro-

paganda using the radio and elevision. Referring to public servants, he said "You are not employees of BNP or Begum Zia ... You have responsibilities to the 12 crore people of the coun-

The AL leader cautioned that those helping the present government would be identified as "public enemy."

Fertiliser

From Page 1 a group of angry farmers under the banner of Krishak Sangram Samity attacked the shops and offices at about 11 am and forcibly took away fertilizer. Police said, they damaged

the Co-operative Bank, the social welfare office, Krishi office, Ansar-VDP office, food office and fisheries office. The mob also ransacked two molasses godowns.

Earlier, the farmers forcibly took away 400 bags of urea from local Dakbanglo bazar, They also took forcibly 600 bags of urea from Bhataibazar paying Taka 250 per bag only.



THE LAST HURRAH: Lanky West Indian paceman Curtly Ambrose exaults after trapping prolific Aussie batsman Mark Waugh for a duck during their nailbiting World Cup semifinal in Chandigarh yester-- AFP/UNB photo

Aussies beat Windies

for a single.

tailmament

swing dramatically.

half-centuries.

in the covers.

4.16 runs an over.

From Page 1

Star batsman Brian Lara cracked a run-a-ball 45 and Shivnarine Chanderpaul made a career-best 80, but the West Indies faltered when victory appeared well within their

The West Indies had begin the match on a sensati r il note by removing the ter Australian batsmen, in line the in form Mark Waugh, who went for a second-ball duck to Courtly Ambrose, by the 10th

over with just 15 on the board. Australia were saved from complete disaster by a defiant 138-run partnership for the fifth wieket between Stuart Law (72) and Michael Bevan (69). The pair stayed together till the 42nd over to aid Australia's last ditch recovery in which 64 runs came off the

Mark Waugh had struck three centuries from his previous five innings in the tournament and was averaging 118 before Thursday's game.

final 10 overs.

Ambrose's new-ball partner Ian Bishop, after seeing Taylor dropped by Brian Lara at slip

to help operate

Ctg port soon

Leaders of Chittagong Port

Combined Workers-Employees

Federation today called upon

the opposition political parties

to help operate Chittagong

port immediately in the

greater interest of the nation.

In a statement here tonight.

the federation leaders said that

about 20,000 workers and

employees of the port were

ready to resume work, but they

could not do so because of ab-

sence of congenial atmo-

They alleged that a vested

group had been active to make

Chittageng port inoperative.

The export oriented indus-

tries, including garment facto-

ries, have been seriously af-

fected while the national

economy has been affected be-

cause of non-functioning of the

country's main port, they said,

adding the government and

the Opposition should create a

congenial atmosphere for op-

eration of Chittagong port.

reports BSS.

sphere.

CHITTAGONG, Mar 14

(Scorecard on page 10) Opposition urged Nor'wester likely today

Nor wester accompanied by squally wind may hit parts of the country this afternoon, weather expert predicted. A Met Office expert told

in his first over, forced the

Australian captain to drag on

fifth over to Ambrose in a car-

bon copy of Waugh's dismissal

giving the 6ft, 7 ins strike

howler 10 wickets for the

bitte Witch was net to

or of playing tac. as Bishop

clean newled him for three as

the ball continued to seam and

stumping chance against off-

spinner Roger Harper, and law

came together at that stage to

rescue Australia with battling

break when law was run out

attempting a sharp single

Bevan himself fell two overs

later when he drove Harper

straight to Richie Richardson

were also run out - the latter

off the final delivery - to keep

the West Indian target down to

Paul Reiffel and Ian Healy

The West Indies had a lucky

Bevan, who survived a

ig it it is not the fatel or

Picky Ponting fell in the

UNB yesterday that the prevailing humid weather is likely to be over with the advent of rain immediately after the nor wester.

"Before the nor'wester sweeps the country, there will be an increase of day temperature with rising humidity," he

Gunshots on DU campus

By Staff Correspondent At least 30 rounds of gunshots were fired from two residential halls of Dhaka

University yesterday. The exchange of gunshots between the S M Hall and the Zahurul Huq Hall began at

around 3pm. A group of unidentified persons reportedly first fired a shot from the SM Hall, said a resident student.

Statement by 418 lawyers

Constitution can't be amended by ordn

Some 418 lawyers yesterday said the Constitution could not be amended by promulgating an ordinance to establish a non-party government for holding elections, reports BSS.

In a joint statement, they said the people were being misled by misinterpretation of the Constitution by certain constitutional experts who were giving their opinion using clever tactics. "It would be good for the nation if interpretation of the Constitution is given by properly understanding the Constitution," they

The lawyers appealed to both the ruling party and the opposition to resolve the political impasse immediately through discussions on the basis of the Constitution to restore peace and political stabil-

The lawyers said it was beyond the powers of the President to promulgate an ordinance to provide for the outline and establishment of a non-party government for bolding national elections, and spell out the powers of the state and the executives during the elections, the role of the election commission, the functions and the role of the

President and the powers of the non-party prime minister. They said the Constitution did not empower the President to promulgate on these complex issues.

Under Articles 48 and 93 of the Constitution, "caretaker government or non-party government" could not be estab lished. They said, adding that the President had the ordinance making power under Article 93 when parliament was not in session or dissolved.

This said the ordinances could be promulgated to make any law excepting amendment to the Constitution. In the present case, the non-party government bill to hold national elections could be adopted by Parliament under Article 142 of the Constitution, the statement said.

Signatories to the statement included Lutfe Alam, Fazlur Rahman Khan, Abdul Ahad Mian, Md. Mokbul Hossain Fakir, Md. Sanaullah Mian Md. Habibur Rahman Mondal, Md. Khorshed Alam, Masud Ahmed Talukder, Shamsul Huq. Sufia Begum, Rezaul Islam, Abu Baker Chowdhury Md. Ataur Rahman, Safia Akh ter Helen, Afroza Begum Shelly and Zahid Ahmed Chowdhury.

President urged to take a 'quick & bold' step

A joint meeting of the rep-resentatives of business community, development agencies and professional groups yesterday called upon the President to take a "quick" and "boid" step to resolve the pre-sent political crists on the basis of a national consensus, reports BSS.

Welcoming the initiative the meeting urged upon the President not to take more time and save the nation from confrontation and frustration.

The meeting expressed its solidarity with the action programme of Bangladesh Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBC(1) including its March 16 Shapla Chat tar public rally.

The meeting also formed a steering committee with FBCCI President Salman F. Rahman and ADA Chairperson Dr. Quazi Faruque Ahmed as joint convenor to launch the movement for realisation of vaflous demands including holding of fresh national election under a caretaker gov

Presided over by Dr. Quazi Faruque Ahmed the meeting was attended, among others, by the representatives of ADAB, FBCCI, BMA, Engineers Institution of Bangladesh. Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ). Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers' Association, Trina mul Janasangathan, and Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad.

President will be controversial if JS summoned: WP

Workers Party general secretary Rashed Khan Menon yesterday said the position of the President would be con troversial if the Parliament which, he alleged, was elected through "vote fraud", is sum-

moned, reports BSS. Addressing a protest meet ing in front of the National Press Club, Menon said the situation of the country might become unmanageable, if the presidential initiative to resolve the political crists fails

Finald the fun ation of a neutral cureteker gevernment is not a profilem new, because there has already been a national consensus in this regard The problem now is the resig nation of the government and annulment of the February 15

elections, he said President over by party secretary Nurul Alam, the meeting was addressed by Shah Alam. Abul Hussain and Akhtar Sobhan Mashroor.

11 EC members protest BGMEA chief's statement

By Staff Correspondent Eleven members of the

Executive Committee of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association in a joint statement yesterday protested the statement made by its president Redwan Ahmed on Thursday. They said the statement

made by Redwan Ahmed regarding the BGMEA meeting on March 12 was not only violation of the rule but also an effort to distort the unanimous decision of the garments owners, for political benefit.

They further said the comments made by him regarding the FBCCI president was also his personal view not the decision of any formal meeting.

The BGMEA executive committee members who signed the statement are: Capt Anisur Rahman Sinha, Nur-e-Alam Siddiqui, Anisul Huq. Saiful Islam, Mohammad Ozaer Afzal, S U Haider, Khalilur Rahman, Lutte M Aiub, Akbar Khan, Habibur Rahman and Benazir

BCS-Prokrichi concerned

By Staff Correspondent The BCS-Prokrichi Action Council in an emergency meeting yesterday expressed deep concern over the deteriorating political and economic situation of the country.

The meeting, presided over by Dr. M A Mazed said, if the present situation continued the administration and the socio-economic condition would

collapse. Krishibid Zaved Iqbal, Engineer MAK Azad, Dr. Kazi Shahidul Alam, Engineer Akhtar Hossen. Engineer Ruhul Matin, Dr. Abdur Razzaq and Dr Sharfuddin were pre-

sent at the meeting. Welcoming the president's initiative to solve the current political problem, the council demanded immediate settlement of the crisis in greater

interest of the country. Banking hours not changed: BB

The office hours of Bangladesh Bank and the scheduled banks has not been changed, the Bank said yesterday referring to press reports that banks will remain open from 2 pm to 4 pm, reports The press reports followed

an opposition announcement that banks would be exempted for two hours from their nonstop non-cooperation programme. The central bank in a press release said as per the Nego-

tiable Instruments Act 1981. banks are to function from 9 am to 3 pm on weekdays except Thursday. The banking hour is from 9 am to 12 noon on Thursdays.

ISLAMABAD. Mar 14: Pakistan today urged the US to commit itself to one China policy in conformity with the three joint communiques with China, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gul Hanif, when asked to comment on the Sino-US tension on the Taiwan issue at a weekly news briefing here, said the US signed three communiques with China supporting 'one China' policy, reports Xinhua.

3 Indian troops among 17 killed in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Mar 14: Three Indian soldiers were among 17 people killed in a sudden spurt in violence in the troubled state of Kashmir, the PTI reported today, reports

Muslim guerillas ambushed an army patrol in the southern Kashmir district of Anantnag late Tuesday, killing a captain and a soldier, officials were quoted as saying in the summer capital of Srinagar. Another soldier died from his injuries in hospital.

Indian security forces shot dead nine Muslim militants in three different places in the Kashmir valley Wednesday and today while three militants died in internecine clashes. PTI said. Two other militants were arrested by the army

Muslim militants also killed two policemen, including one who had been abducted earlier. The sudden upsurge in violence in Kashmir came as In-

dian authorities prepared to hold talks for the first time with four former prominent guerillas here in a bid to end the Muslim separatist drive in the state. More than 12,000 people have been killed in the separatist campaign since 1989.

India accuses Pakistan of arm-

ing the militants. Islamabad

denies this but supports the

unrest, calling in a self-determination struggle India and Pakistan dispute the ownership of the Himalayan province of Kashmir

and have fought two wars over Delegation leader Badr caution of that "negotiations are a process and not a conclusion" and stressed that there would be "no compromise on our basic stand" of an end to Indian rule over Kashmir.

militants participating in the Sporadic clashes

The other three former

From Page 1 Lalbagh in the city in which one Abul Hashem was hit with

Police said, Motaleb, a peon at the office a Ward Commissioner Mosharraf Hussain Khokon of Ward No. 60 received bomb injury as Opposition activists torched the car and motor garage of Khokon at

Rajnarayan Dhar Road. Two persons — Yusuf, 25 and Kubbat Ali, 35 - were injured when a bomb was hurled on the auto-tempo they were travelling in at Mahakhali around 11:30 am. In another incident, driver Selim, 25 and helper Abu Sayeed, 22, were injured when their tempo came under bomb attack near Mirpur Bazar Road at 10 in the

morning. Jahangir Alam, 30, a rickshawpuller and Abdur Rahim, 30 a passerby, were injured in separate bomb blasts at the Motifheel Shapla Square and the Dainik Bangla crossing

around noon. Besides the non-cooperation programme. Opposition activists also observed a daylong hartal in the city's Mirpur area vesterday protesting the killing of an unidentified pedestrian there in a clash between ruling party and Opposition supporters the day

before. The Opposition had earlier announced relaxation of the programme for one hour for banks from 11:00 am. six hours for shops from 4 pm and for 13 hours from 5 pm everyday for export oriented industries including garments.

Unusual rush was seen in banks and shopping centres during the relaxed hours. Motorised vehicles continued to remained off the road. Rickshaws, exempted from the purview of the movement, were seen in large numbers, so much so that those created traffic jam in some points.

The ruling BNP and its different front organisations brought out a number of processions in the city against the Opposition programme.

A W Khandker

From Page 1 be raised before the election tribunal under the relevant laws and the tribunal will decide the matter, he added. Regarding credibility of the

Sixth Parliament, the senior advocate of the Supreme Court said: "This may be considered keeping in view that even before the election, as the main opposition parties declined to participate in the election, the ruling party had declared that this election was being held for continuity of the constitutional and democratic process and to pave the way for participation of other parties in future elections.

This apparently meant to amend the Constitution making provision to hold future elections to the Parliament under a caretaker government. Now the Prime Minister has declared that the Bill will be passed in the first session of the Parliament and thereafter Parliament will be dissolved. So, this was held under constitutional compulsion," he observed

talks are Bilal Lodi of the Al Barq Organisation, Ghulam Mohiuddin Lone, former Deputy Commander of the Muslim Mujahideen, and Imran Rahi of the Hizbul Mujahideen, a powerful group which supports a merger of Indian and Pakistaniadministered Kashmir.

Reuter adds: Pakistan today denounced planned talks between the Indian government and four former Kashmiri militants, saying the "renegades" had no right to discuss the future of Kashmir.

A Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman said the talks with the "gang of four" was only aimed at misleading Indian

The group had no locus standi" to negotiate a solution to the Kashmir problem on behalf of the Kashmiri people,

IOJ for interim advisory council headed by CJ The Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ)

has suggested that an interim advisory council be formed by the President for the period between resignation of the present cabinet and elections of the new parliament, reports The Jote submitted the outline to President Abdur Rah-

man Biswas in response to his

letters requesting various po-

litical parties to send propos-

als on the framework and modalities of a neutral caretaker government, the President's office said yesterday. . According to the IOJ outline, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or the next

Judge in order of seniority would be appointed the principal adviser He would perform this responsibility in addition to his own duty and would return to

his post after the elected Prime Minister takes over. The President would appoint members of the advisory council after consultations with the principal adviser. These members would not be associated with any political party. The principal adviser and the advisory council would enjoy the rank and status of the prime minister and the

council of ministers respectively on a temporary basis. The advisory council would only administer day to day routine affairs and urgent matters of the government. It would not take any long-term

Women's seats

policy decision.

From Page 1 March 18 has been fixed for withdrawal of candidature. Voting for the indirect elections will take place on March 19 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Secretary of the EC Secretariat, Returning Officer for conducting election to the 30 Meanwhile, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has invited applications from inter-

The EC in separate gazette

notification has appointed Mo-

hammad Abdus Salam, Joint

Dr M Zahir

ested candidates for the Jatiya

Sangsad's 30 women seats.

From Page 1 will merely fill up a void." On the Presidential power to promulgate an Ordinance providing for a caretaker government, Dr Zahir, who gave a formula on way out in August last year, said. "Article 48 (2) of the Constitution provides that the President may exercise the powers and perform duties conferred and imposed on him. A law framed under the said Article would be a

plates giving additional powers to the President." "This Ordinance is only to fill in the gap now. A permanent shape can be given after a thorough discussion by all par-

special law because the

Constitution itself contem-

ties in a universally accepted Parliament," he added. On the Sixth Parliament the jurist said the election of the February 15 can not be termed an election within the meaning of the Constitution because of "the total non concerns to observe any of the norms of the fair election in the vast majority of the polling centres as reported in the

press. He, however, said the Constitution provides only one method of challenging an unfair election, as provided in Article 125, where the modus operandi is by way of an election petition to an authority,

prescribed by law. "Obviously, this is now impractible in the present circumstances. The only way the government can show any respect for the true spirit of democracy is to dissolve this still-born Parliament immediately. The dissolution is certainly possible under the Constitution," he observed.

The Midnight Rile

Pakistan urges US to commit itself to 'one China' policy